

Artist Talks - Dan Li_ac

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SPEAKERS

Dan Li, Edith Villasenor

E Edith Villasenor 00:00

Hello, Welcome. Today is June 28, 2019. My name is Edith Villasenor, and I'm here to interview Dan Li about her new art exhibit Spring at the Architecture Design and Art Library. Thank you, Dan, for being here. And thank you UH Libraries for sponsoring this program. Dan Li is currently a PhD candidate in the art education program at the University of Houston. Today Dan is going to talk about her work, experiences, and future work. So to get started, could you briefly tell us about your background?

D Dan Li 00:29

Yes, I'm happy to talk about my background. I'm a doctoral student in art education in the curriculum and instruction department. And I work as a TA for different art education courses. This is the undergraduate courses, and I also teach in community outreach program for the elementary school and secondary school students.

E Edith Villasenor 00:51

Okay, and what drew you to U of H?

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I think my research interests on the social justice art education, multicultural art education that's fit my art program in UH, that's fit my research interests because here the program, they emphasize the urban education, diversity, inclusion, and social justice and multicultural. So I think that's the main reason I chose the U. H., to pursue my doctorate degree in art education.

E Edith Villasenor 01:26

Okay, great, and what themes do you pursue usually in your artwork?

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Dan Li 01:31

I do the different medium, I do some watercolor, and then I do acrylic painting. And then I do most of my artwork on justice or social issues. I want to, my students to, I want to foster my students' critical media literacy, or you can say the visual, critical visual literacy. And then I want the art can be, engage our community, can be, artists can express their perspective or opinion in the artwork, and then to engage a community to have a conversation in different kinds of social issue.

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Edith Villasenor 02:13

So you want to be a voice?

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Dan Li 02:15

Yeah. A voice, and this is the main theme I do for my artwork.

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Edith Villasenor 02:21

Okay, and what inspired you to do Spring?

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Dan Li 02:24

The Spring, I want to bring some happiness to the community and some positive energy to the community. So that's why I do the Spring for this exhibition.

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Edith Villasenor 02:36

Okay, that's great. And when did you know that you wanted to be an artist?

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Dan Li 02:40

I learned art when I was a child and then my teachers always praised my artwork and then this gave me a high motivation to keep working hard and then and then finally, get a degree in illustration as my bachelor degree, and then my master degree and doctorate degree also are working on the art education.

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Edith Villasenor 03:04

Oh wonderful Thank you for sharing that Have you ever installed in a public space before?

Oh, wonderful. Thank you for sharing that. Have you ever installed in a public space before?

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Dan Li 03:11

I install my artwork in my master's graduation and bachelor graduation, I finished my master's degree in 2012. And then this group exhibition as a graduation exhibition and this is my first time to do the, show the exhibition in the architecture library.

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Edith Villasenor 03:34

Okay, great, thank you. And what technique do you usually do? Especially for like your artwork.

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Dan Li 03:42

Yeah, I do acrylic and watercolor. I like these two media very much because watercolor, I think they are different. It is a different way to paint a painting. Watercolor is layer by layer and then you need to have a very good idea about the composition, the color first. Because it's not easy to revise up after you get started. And then get the acrylic painting and then I think these are different way to finish artwork. If you don't like the composition in the beginning and then it's easy for you to revise and then it's also a medium between the watercolor and oil painting. So I really like we like to try these two kinds of the media.

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Edith Villasenor 04:41

And when do you know your work is finished?

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Dan Li 04:45

My work is finished, I would, I draw layer by layer and then I mix the color. If I think it's finished, I think the color, the most, I get satisfied and then I think it is finished. And then I will draw, I like the realistic painting. And then I've tried to draw as many detail as I can. And then it's not the abstract painting. So if I, I see I can get the enough details and then I think it's finished. Yeah.

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Edith Villasenor 05:17

Awesome! And so what are artists inspiring you? Specifically for Spring.

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Dan Li 05:25

The artists... Yeah, I like Monet from the Impressionism and then I his color, his color study, and then his, every, his painting and then the aesthetic. The color inspired my color in my Spring painting. Yeah. And then I also like Dali from the Surrealism, he combined the different ordinary

objects into an unrealistic way. And then these painting styles also inspire my, my Spring painting.

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Edith Villasenor 06:00

Okay, and what's your favorite medium to work in?

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Dan Li 06:04

My favorite medium? I like watercolor and acrylic. And I do a little bit of printmaking. Yeah.

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Edith Villasenor 06:12

Well, thank you for sharing. And usually do you work in series or do you prefer working like in single

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Dan Li 06:20

I work in series. I first think about theme, and then I will create three to four paintings under the theme and then I will choose a style on a theme like this theme I do totally watercolor. And next theme I do acrylic and then next theme I do some illustrations. So I, I will have a theme first.

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Edith Villasenor 06:44

Okay. And so what is your favorite place to see art?

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Dan Li 06:49

I usually see art on the museum website. And then because I, it gives me more information about the artists' background, the medium they use, and the size of the artwork. So I thought I'd do some more research. So I more prefer to go digital art. Yeah.

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Edith Villasenor 07:14

Great. And so what are your plans for the future?

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Dan Li 07:19

I plan to be an art education professor in a university. And then I also plan to keep going my artwork, do the watercolor and acrylic painting. And then also write multicultural instructional resources for the K to twelve art teacher and then yeah, I do painting and drawing. And also

write instructional resources for the, for the school. Yeah,

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Edith Villasenor 07:49

That's very interesting. And what about, are you thinking of also doing more art? In the future?

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Dan Li 07:56

Yeah, I will do more art in the future. I will keep doing my watercolor and acrylic color. Yeah.

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Edith Villasenor 08:04

Okay. And where can people find you? Online? We have a website you'd like to share with us?

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Dan Li 08:11

Yeah, I have a website. You can search me. My name, Dan Li art education.

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Edith Villasenor 08:17

Dan Li art education.

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Dan Li 08:18

Yeah. And then you can see my personal website, I frequently upload my artwork. And my students' artworks there. Yeah. My students do different kinds of the artwork and then you can see my students do the painting, drawing, but they also do the experiment printmaking and collage.

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Edith Villasenor 08:40

There's so many

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Dan Li 08:42

Different kinds of medium and some digital art. Yeah, you can see all on my personal website.

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Edith Villasenor 08:49

Okay. That's great. And thank you for being here, Dan, and sharing your story with us.



Dan Li 08:55

Thank you. Thank you for having me.