

What tools or materials do you use as an artist?

Acrylic paint on canvas.. I like to do Small scale art it's easy for out of state travelers to take home...lol... And I can put out work quicker.

What role do you think Art plays in society?

I think you can express yourself I think being freelance gives you free will... lot of people like to perceive art Differently graffiti art is a type of art that isn't accepted... by society in general... To me they are murals that send a message or express ones talent... Art can play a lot in society... If you have proper leadership and funding..tattoo artists draw tats On people that express themselves. That's the beauty of art it's universal...make up artists cosplayers like Miss Teena, Kat Loveless, Jeremy from Bloody Blush...they bring it here at our local cons, And that's the tip of the iceberg not counting advertisement artists or architects!!

What are some obstacles you have faced as an artist and how did you overcome them?

Alot...ha ha I normally don't enter contests. To be honest because.

I don't feel like my art is good enough... Everybody always says I think you're great and talented...I don't...I love what I do...but there are many many many who are super talented. Politics Sometimes gets in the way... Art and politics never mix. Censorship... And I don't mean adult subject matter but.. Sometimes the way a painting is can be offensive... But with artwork you have to strictly get to the points.. I remember doing a Vanessa Guillen and painting as a loteria card you had Hands of the american flag covering her... Clearly the whole case was a cover up... The Vanessa Gullien FB page removed it... They message me saying, it's a great concept.But I think it sends a bad message....what?..... That totally made no sense... And we know the US army f***** u* and tried to.Cover up a murder and that's what the painting was about a cover up.

How has your art evolved over the years?

I started doing a lot of Chicano art, juxtaposing that and pop culture. When I started doing horror conventions, it opened up a new can of worms. It has opened up other avenues. I've had some people say... Why don't you go back to that Or you're going through a phase... Again, like I said, art is universal.... You can pretty much do what you want and get the subject out on canvas.

Any art piece (not your own) that has impacted you?

Oooo there are so many...okay local Kayla Mata and Karen Faye... I love their style of artwork... I own a few originals... Those are the works that you see whenever I do my live videos in the background.

Riveras Murals, Derek Riggs album covers
And DaVincis Last Supper

Outside of creating Art, what other things do you enjoy doing?

I started getting into the hobby of creating battle jackets I have 2 That I have finished and I got one that is in the process. Spending time with my family. Collecting CDs meeting actors at the Horror cons... Meeting interesting people...watching sports... Collecting funko pops and figures

If you could collaborate with an artist out there of your choice, who would it be with and why?

I am proud to say that I have collaborated with probably some of the best artists in San Antonio Silvia Ochoa, April Dawn Ceja, Rosalinda Alvarez, Alex Alvarez , and Crystal Torres... They were in part of the restoration of a Mural I did over 20 years ago... There were no egos...It was a wonderful collaboration... The restoration only took thirteen days... We just clicked on all cylinders I love those guys... They have gone on to do wonderful things....that is a rare feat.... I also collaborate with Kevin McLaughlin via Fiesta Medals Direct...we've already done 6 Medals for 2025.

For those reading and interested in pursuing Art , what advice would you give them?

Be persistent, take no for an answer. Don't get discouraged. Surround yourself with people that will support you. Go to school and also have a plan B. If plan A doesn't work. Pay it forward with others... don't Burn your bridges because the world is very tiny... Give advice to others.when asked... Off subject... I met Jesse Trevino one time... he was supposedly san antonio's golden boy artist... Start doing my murals in nineteen ninety six I asked him for advice... You just looked at me and turned around totally turned off.. I told myself that if I ever got a point to be successful.... I would never do that And this is how you play It forward....Karen Faye and Tristen Rodriguez... Have a gone on to vend at markets/ conventions... Give them that little gleam... They have always been grateful And asking me simple questions simple advice... Giving them a little bit of your tdoes wonders.

Anyone you would like to thank that might have helped or supported you as an artist?

My wife Maria my daughters Amanda and Samantha, my family, market convention promoters Janie, Joel, Angel, the Late Manuel Castillo , Ben and Bonnie Lopez, the Torres Family at Taco Haven. Claudia Gabriella Colin (from Blood in Blood Out) and Kristy Adams owner of Nightmare Toys have shared my work as well...The people who have purchased my artwork through the years. I am very grateful... Again. I'm just a simple man who just loves to paint but very blessed.

Interview By Spida





Can you describe your creative process? Do you have any rituals or routines?

Simple, but effective. Solitude, music that inspires emotion, and the availability of any and every type of medium or tool.

How do you approach the beginning of a new piece?

Every idea comes to me during my regular routine of daily life. I write it down or sketch it out on a sticky note, and make time to start the piece whenever possible.

What role do you think art plays in society?

A therapeutic role. Whether it is making art, or admiring the work of another person, it is therapeutic and healthy.

What has been your most meaningful project to date, and why?

Seems to be a pattern in which every piece I make becomes the new most-meaningful project to date. Every piece is practice in getting in touch with my emotions and being able to successfully express them in the piece. So, my latest piece is usually more successful than the previous, making it the new-most meaningful piece.

What do you hope viewers take away from your work?

Empathy. I aim to help viewers get in touch with that inner depth as well.

Are there any new directions or ideas you're excited to explore in your future work?

I let inspiration naturally steer my directions in future works.

Can you share your journey as an artist? What inspired you to pursue this path?

I have been an artist since childhood. In my 20's I struggled with drug and alcohol addiction and one of the side effects was I suffered with tremors in my hands that I couldn't seem to overcome. I stopped doing art for over ten years until one day I decided to embrace the unsteadiness in my art style. "Shaky style" was born.

Who are your biggest influences, both in the art world and beyond?

I was very much influenced by my father and grandmother as a child. Bill Watterson and Charles Shultz introduced me to the relaxed approach of drawing and sketching. Pablo Picasso 's freedom of artistic expression launched me forward into a new way of thinking. As a teenager I discovered Alex Grey who influenced me to dive into the psychedelic mindset of surrealism. Early adulthood I discovered Jean-Michel Basquiat and neo-expressionism. I was fascinated and really found the ingredients to my own style but was still struggling with the recipe. It was until my late 30's, after overcoming my addictions and inner demons, that I perfected my style. I learned how to use emotion in my art and discovered "art-catharsis".





What advice would you give to aspiring artists?

Let it out! Don't get hung up on imperfections. Let the emotion be the art, not preconceived notions.

If you could collaborate with any artist, living or dead, who would it be and why?

Jean-Michel Basquiat of course, although neither of us necessarily "play well with others" the pieces would be fun to make and emotional to experience.

What's a piece of art (not your own) that has profoundly impacted you?

The Weeping Woman by Pablo Picasso.

Can you share any upcoming projects or exhibitions we should look out for?

Nothing I can share yet but keep an eye out. It's coming.

Is there anything else you'd like to share that we haven't covered?

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story

Interview By TES



DROP THE NEEDLE

FEATURING
DARENDA DORSEY

How did it all start for you? What inspired you to pursue this path?

Music has been a part of my life since childhood, my interest in records specifically was sparked by my father's vinyl collection of punk and rock 'n' roll records (hidden in his closet until my brother and I discovered them). He played in a band called the Soul Patrol, so our home was always filled with music. When I discovered those records, I became instantly captivated by the physical format, and my collection started growing in high school. From early dreams of performing to playing in high school Ramones cover bands, music has been a constant in my life.

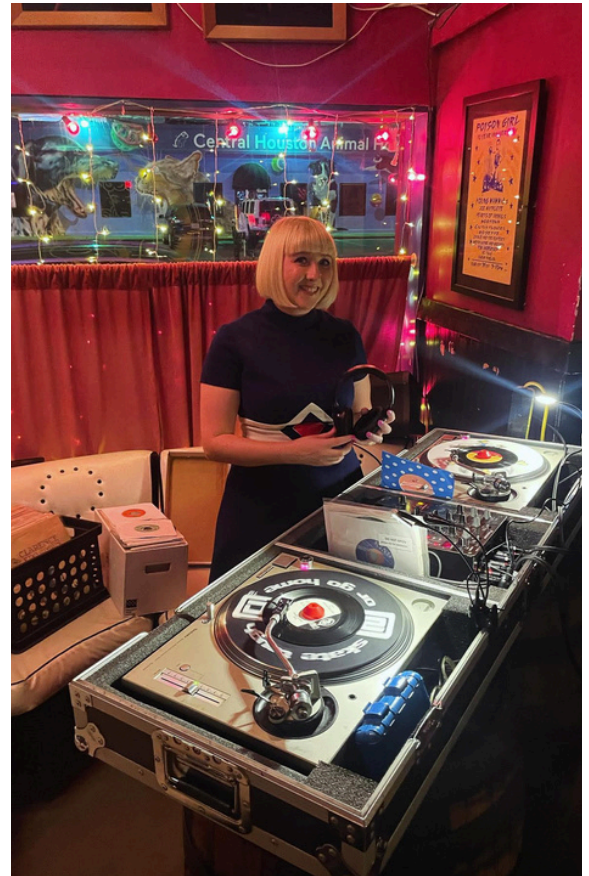
Over a decade ago, I began spinning records, driven by a passion for sharing music and a desire to make use of my expanding collection. I started with an all-female vinyl-spinning group called "Here Come the Girls" with my good friend DJ Yes. We aimed to inspire more women to get into spinning records. Later, I launched my own events under the name "Space City Mod Club".

Who is your biggest inspiration? / Who do you have a lot of respect for?

My biggest inspiration has to be the Spice Girls, especially Baby Spice I'm not typically into pop music, but growing up, I thought they were the coolest. More than anything, I wanted to be a Spice Girl.

What single night out has been the most memorable for you? As a DJ? As an attendee?

A Fistful of Soul was hands down the most memorable event! Every event was a blast, and it's where I met so many of my friends in Houston. I lived for those 3rd Fridays each month—dressing up in my new vintage finds and dancing. I miss it so much! Lately, I've been having a great time opening up for Houston legends Curly Cormier & The Gladiators on 1st Saturdays at Echoes with Ice House Radio. Those nights have been a great time.



Where do you think your particular music scene is headed? One year from now? Five years from now?

I'm excited to see where music is headed. I'm usually optimistic and believe there will always be a scene for the styles I love. Mod fashion and soul music are timeless, and with more ways to discover music, I think the audience will continue to grow, especially as more young people get into it. As I get older, I find myself attending fewer events and offering less support to the Houston scene because of family commitments, but that doesn't mean the scene is fading—it just means I have less time to stay in the loop on cool stuff going on. There have been some amazing events in Houston lately that I'd love to attend if I had more time!

If you could eternally be stuck in one year's music scene, which year would it be?

The mod scene of the '60s or the Northern Soul scene of the '70s. Both had such amazing dancing, stylish fashion, and an unbeatable sense of cool.

What is one subgenre you think doesn't get the attention it deserves?

I think Power Pop is still so underrated and I have thought this since high school. There's been talk of a documentary about the genre for years, and I'm eagerly awaiting its release. To me, it's still one of the most underrated genres—catchy, jangly, and fun! **What more could you want in a style of music?**

What is it that you love about the scene? Your subgenre's scene?

I love the fashion and the sense of community. When everyone's dressed sharp, dancing, and supporting each other, it reminds me why I got into this in the first place. The music and feeling I get at a soul night is so enjoyable that it feels like I'm discovering it all over again. I'm still as excited as I was in the beginning and haven't lost that original spark because I'm still loving every moment to the fullest.



BY OLIVIA WILSON

What is your opinion regarding the difference between old school DJing where everything was restricted to vinyl and modern DJing where most tracks are never put on any physical medium before or after release?

I don't have a strong opinion on the matter—everyone has their own preferences. For me, vinyl is my go-to, but I'm not bothered if music isn't played purely on vinyl. As long as people are sharing and enjoying music, I'm happy with however they choose to play it.

Do you think this has hurt the exclusivity of having a certain sound? A DJ's ability to have a "unique" style? Is having your own style separate from all the other DJs out there even important in modern DJing?

I don't think the rise of digital DJing has diminished the appeal of vinyl. From my experience, people are still very curious about vinyl records. Whenever I play records, I often find people intrigued and eager to learn more, which makes me feel that vinyl remains a unique presence in a digital world. The vinyl records I choose reflect my personal taste and style, even if others are playing similar genres. I believe that everyone's taste and song selections are unique, so I don't get disheartened by other DJs. I just love meeting people and sharing what I enjoy listening to. Ultimately, it's all about sharing the music recorded by artists for everyone's enjoyment.

What advice would you give to aspiring DJs?

Have a blast and spin what you love. I've noticed that when I'm dancing and enjoying myself, the crowd picks up on that energy, making the experience feel more genuine. Also, be sure to avoid burnout. Remember why you started DJing and keep sharing your passion and love for music with the community.

What is one track that never gets old for you no matter how many times you hear it?

"Shoes" by Bobby Bland and amusingly, a song called "Okay" by the band Shoes are two of my all-time favorites, though there are so many more. "Move On Up" by Curtis Mayfield is another track I could listen to endlessly without it ever getting old. Gosh, there are too many.

Can you share any upcoming events or projects that we should look out for?

On the 1st Saturday of the month, I spin records with Ice House Radio at Echoes—my go-to Space City Mod Club event these days since having a kid has made it tougher to manage monthly gigs. I usually play blues, soul, R&B, jazz, and more. You can find us at 900 Richmond Ave. Ste A, Houston, TX 77006.

On the 2nd Friday of the month, catch me at Slice & Spin Vinyl Sessions at Betelgeuse, 4500 Montrose Blvd, where I spin punk, power pop, new wave, and mod revival. My buddy DJ Somms and I started this event to enjoy pizza and records together, and it's been a blast! We also bring in a guest DJ each month to keep things saucy.

Is there anything else you'd like to share that we haven't covered?

Hope to see you out at an event soon!

Interview By TES



OCTOBER 11th 8pm-MIDNIGHT

Slice & Spin
SESSIONS

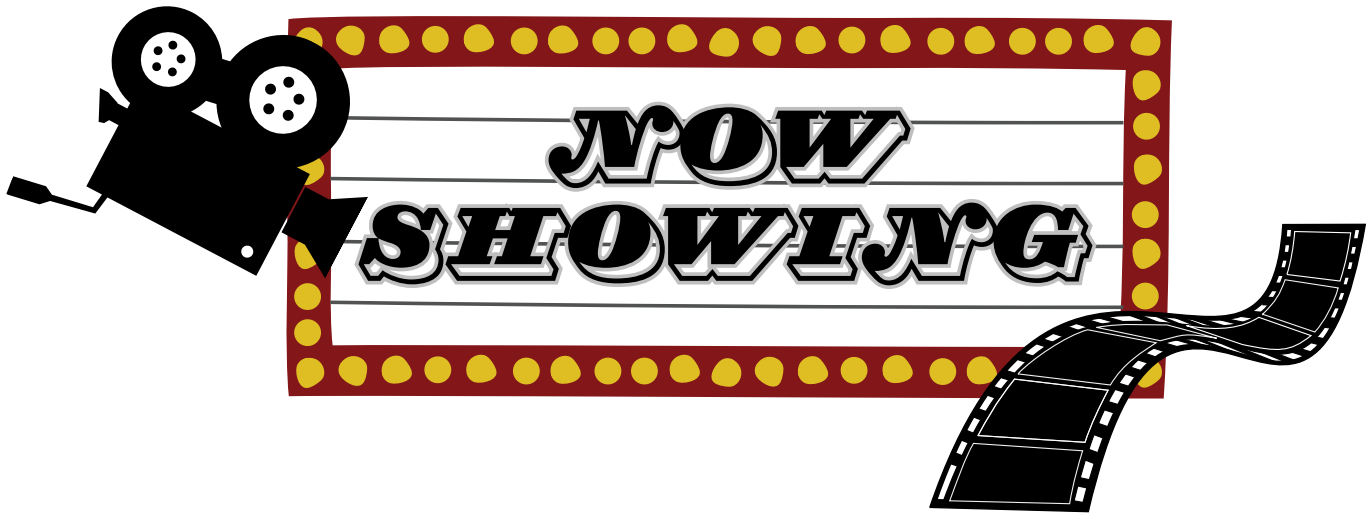
PIZZA. COCKTAILS LIVE DJ SETS

DJ SOMMS & DAREDA



MIKEY DRAG & RAINBOW MOONSTONE

4500 Montrose Blvd HTX



Movie Reviews by Jonathon Kelly, UK

Alien: Romulus (2024) directed by Fede Alvarez.

The Ridley Scott Alien era is over. While he has a prominent producer credit here, this is a galaxy away from his ambitious but flawed recent entries in the series. Whatever you thought of Prometheus (2012) and Covenant (2017), the fact was they were not the box office hits the studio wanted, nor did they sit well with fans who wanted a lot more Xenomorph and bit less philosophical discourse. I am pleased to say new director (but established series revitaliser) Alvarez has totally taken that on board. Fede, who made the superlative thriller Don't Breathe (2016) between helming the new (at the time) entries in the Evil Dead and Girl With The Dragon Tattoo franchises has returned the series to it's roots as a group of 20 something's find themselves trapped on the Romulus space station. Now, I should say I appreciate that sounds like a weak set up, and that my first viewing of the first trailer left me absolutely cold, especially the weird chav accent on display. (A chav for those non UK readers is a ... young person of a type characterized by brash and loutish behaviour, usually with connotations of a low social status). But trust me, this film both rises above and cleverly circumvented my concerns skilfully.

That starts with a simple but clever reason as to why these young people need to get on that space station. It makes sense and there is no feeling that they ever act stupidly as the events transpire. They are victims of circumstance and desperation and this is important as it helps the audience to care. The second master-stroke is how brilliantly the two lead characters are written. To put it bluntly, while Cailee Spaeny has the main role and is a great actress, David Jonsson steals this film from underneath her through a mix of superlative acting and brilliant characterisation in the script. Spaeny, who is on a fine run with this, Civil War (2024) and Priscilla (2023) in a row and thus is already an established star, is the latest in the strong female leads this series is famous for. Jonsson was new to me though and this should be a star making role for him, he is that good. They form a powerful duo, and their humanity and relationship was (for me) more powerful than Ripley and Newt in Aliens (1986). I know, high praise, but I say it with genuine conviction.

The rest of the cast are less well served, though the chav character, Bjorn, is deeply unlikeable (intentionally so), they are all given an exciting set piece as events unfold.

So, this is a return to the aesthetics and tension of the first Alien (1979) and the expert characterisation and wider scope of Aliens. What it brings to the table is some genuinely stunning special effects scenes that really do impress and a real intelligence as to why and how things happen. I loved it and while there are some scenes that may not hit perfectly with everybody (a returning character and the new Alien "design" being mentioned in other reviews as possible negatives), for me, they were appropriate and logical script developments that developed the film in innovative directions. Mostly though, I loved being in the company of Ripley and Newt. I hope the excellent box office and positive reception this film has engendered mean their adventures continue in the future. Thanks Fede for revitalising this franchise.

COSMOPOLIS (2012) directed by David Cronenberg.

Growing up learning to be an avid film fan in the UK there were directors you raved over but couldn't see their films at the cinema living in Somerset for love or money. David Cronenberg is a perfect example, in a 16-year period from when I first got into his movies, the only film of his I got to see on the big screen was *Existenz* in 1999. Then *History of Violence* hit big in 2005 and since then his films got the commercial boost they needed and all played in cinemas, including this mind-bending weirdness in which eight people walked out on at the screening I attended. For there was a reason his films weren't showing at the local ODEON cinema back in the day, and while his Viggo Mortenson collaborations were a lot more conventional, this was Cronenberg back to his most wilfully non-commercial. The irony that he got this head melt funded by getting Robert Pattinson to star, hot on the heels of his *Twilight* mega fame, is not lost on me. I'm sure Cronenberg loved it too, for while Robert acquits himself well in a challenging role, the idea of a bunch of twihards watching this is a sweet irony.

Pattinson plays Packer, an internet tycoon, rich beyond belief, who wants to get a haircut in Manhattan. So he goes for a drive to do just that. The problem is there maybe people who want to kill him, the city is about to riot and people keep getting in his limo for increasingly strange reasons. This allows for a cast bursting at the seams with talent, as Paul Giamatti, Kevin Durand, Samantha Morton, Jay Baruchel and many more familiar faces pop up, interrupting and endlessly complicating his simple task. Thematically this bears similarities to *Holy Motors* (also 2012) and is a great companion piece to that film, but it is all Cronenberg. Dense, deep, baffling and adventurous, it is auteur filmmaking incarnate and Cronenberg has always been at his best following the beat of his own drum. IMDB list this as a crime / drama / fantasy / mystery / thriller, but I always view Cronenberg as a horror film director, just because no matter the overall genre he works in, he makes films that creep you out! I love the fact that after rebuilding his career to get back in mainstream cinemas that he then went and made a film liable to get him banished from them in the future! Pattinson of course went back to the mainstream with *The Batman* (2022), but Cronenberg is still peddling the weird and uncomfortable. His latest, *The Shrouds* (2024) has already had a release in France but seems to be waiting for distribution elsewhere. I guess a film where the lead character builds a device to connect with the dead inside a burial shroud is not going to fill a cinema in same way *Deadpool* does! But I always want to see where Cronenberg takes us next, his films live long in the mind, and once seen, are never forgotten.