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I always have music playing whilst I am creating-radio, stereo, or my iPod, it all depends on my mood at the time. My musical tastes shift with my emotions, guiding the energy of my work. One morning, as I listened to the radio, Lady Gaga's new single *Born This Way* began to play. I was sketching a blue viola I had seen blooming in our garden earlier that morning. As the song's words filled the room, I kept drawing, completely immersed. The explosive beat and empowering lyrics of that song inspired the vibrancy of the colours I would later use to bring the acrylic painting to life.

I don't just visually see colour or physically hear sounds-I feel colours, and I see music and songs as colours. It's a strange but beautiful vision, one I have learned to embrace. I have no idea why I experience sound and colour this way, but when I am creating, it all comes together. It feels like another blessing among the many gifts I hold dear.

The music of *Born This Way* became flowing, swirling ribbons of vibrant, pulsating colour, and the original blue viola became the anchor for all that danced around the canvas. Later, I flicked through old playlists on my iPod and found a Monkees album. Listening to Davey Jones singing and shaking his tambourine to *Daydream Believer* brought another rush of colour to my brushstrokes. The final painting became a fusion of those visions, and I titled it:

As an out and proud 'born this way' being, Gaga's song resonated deeply. Throughout my younger years, I was often berated for being a 'daydreamer'. Yet then, as now, I held onto my belief that I was proudly born this way - a daydream believer. With this artwork, I hope to inspire others to embrace all that they are and all they are yet to be, because we were all born this way.

Never stop daydreaming. Never stop believing

***Born This Way - A Daydream Believer* - DMC © 2015**



Original A3 acrylic painting on a flat panel art canvas (42 cm x 29.7 cm, unframed) Matt & Metallic Acrylic Artwork on 42 cm x 29.7 cm flat panel canvas

I am whole here -
a daydreamer, proudly born this way.
Each note I hear is a burst of colour,
Each colour a heartbeat of song.

Never stop dreaming.
Never stop believing.

Music drifts through the room -
radio, stereo, iPod spinning moods.
I follow the pull of each note,
letting emotion choose the song.

A blue viola wakes in the garden,
its petals soft against the morning air.
Then Gaga's voice fills the space,
Born This Way - a heartbeat of light,
sending shivers of colour across my skin.

Vibrancy spills from the canvas:
swirls of magenta, bursts of gold,
blue ribbons echoing the flower
and the truth in her words.
I feel the colours, I see the music,
my world a collision of senses.

Later, the Monkees arrive,
tambourines shaking daydreams into life.
Daydream Believer twirls through the air,
a rush of warm orange and playful green
spinning under my brush.

The painting breathes a fusion of visions -
deep cobalt petals anchoring a storm of light,
ribbons of violet and rose swirling like laughter,
fiery yellows and sunlit greens leaping outward,
as if music itself has taken shape.
It rests, alive, a garden of sound and colour,
a song turned into light,
a flower forever daydreaming in motion.

As I step back, a soft breeze slips through the
window,
cooling the warmth of creation on my skin.
Shafts of gold drift across the floor,
as if the afternoon light itself
is pausing to breathe with me.

The colours radiate like petals in a gentle wind,
my joy held in every curve and ripple.
Air and light fold around the canvas,
carrying the quiet hum of fulfilment.

Here, I am the music, the colour, the dream -
rooted in the earth, open to the sky.
In the stillness of this garden of sound and light,
I feel the world exhale,
and I exhale with it.

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