



## Create:Fixate Newsletter - October 2008

### Create:Fixate Highlights Painter Lola Scarpitta



Lola Scarpitta's exhibit at Create:Fixate's event AMP (Art.Music.Politics.) 9/20/08

#### **Why did you become an artist and who or what are some of your artistic influences?**

I did not so much become a painter as it was the family business. My father was an artist with Leo Castelli and his father was a sculptor here in L.A in the 20's and 30's and HIS father was a sculptor in Palermo and NYC in the 19th and early 20th century. And my father met my mother in art school in Rome where she was studying painting as well. So it must be something in the DNA. And of course growing up in NYC, and having Castelli's as a playground influenced me in my work.

#### **How did you come to live in Los Angeles?**

I came to L.A in 1998/97. I had been living all over the country but LA is where I knew there was a connection for me that would be beneficial to my work. A sort of family magical connection that would be a talisman for me.

#### **How did you hear about Create:Fixate and Describe your experience participating in the show?**

Create:Fixate is something I have had my eye on for a long time. Michelle brings an energy that almost goes into the mystical. She is one of those really rare people who love the artists and the world we belong in and wishes to translate that experience to the rest of the world. Castelli was like this. These people are very precious to our culture. The artists has their contribution but without people like Castelli and Michelle who would know about it?

#### **Do you think art has the power to motivate change?**

Change only comes from within and if the seed is there already then art can help the change to happen. Art is a reflection of what is there. If people don't like what they see then I do think that art can give a certain courage for that change to take place. My father always told me that artists are some of the most courageous people on the planet. That it takes real guts to pull off what we do. I do believe that. It's a hard life and it's not for the meek. You must constantly question everything. Some people just can't live that way.

#### **Talk a bit about your exhibit at the last Create:Fixate show.**

I think that I showed the work that was in keeping with my mental state right now which is very turbulent and self-reflective. Sometimes I think there's a really pissed off 17 year old boy in me that I have to give a voice to. But that part of my psyche also gives me great satisfaction, and believe it or not, a certain peace that nothing will ever escape my canvas.