

Interview with German artist, Birgit Antoni – interview conducted by Karolina Kaminska, Ruby Clarke and Grace Brown, Y12



Birgit Antoni lives in Cologne, Germany, and is a successful retired graphic artist. We spoke to her in German about her thoughts on the arts. Here is the translated interview:

Would you recommend pursuing a career in the arts?

A profession in creative arts, and especially that of the artist, is honestly financially hopeless, so I would always advise you to choose another profession if possible as a backup! It is also very difficult and it is becoming more and more difficult to develop a really independent style, because a lot of art has already been done! You have to be very knowledgeable and go to see a lot of art by other artists in museums, at trade fairs and in galleries. If possible in many cities and internationally. So also travel to art.

What are your thoughts on Street art?

Street art and graffiti are not really my thing ...

Do you think art is important?

The so-called creative industry in Germany includes not only art but also literature, music, film, painting, sculpture, artistry and circus, etc. The industry is a very big economic factor in Germany. Even if most of the many creative people are very poor, the sales volume is very high and ranks directly after the automotive industry. 98% of all trips to cities take place because of the culture. Many hotels, restaurants, pubs and taxi drivers earn money from it. Usually though, not the artists themselves!

If you could exhibit your art anywhere, where would it be?

If I could show my art anywhere in the world, I would love to choose the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

What makes your art unique?

When talking about what makes my art unique? I think it is the only like it in the world. That's definitely a unique selling point.

What inspired you to be an artist?

I can't say exactly what inspired me to be an artist, it was many things. It may be looking at the church windows while I was in Mass. I always drew in kindergarten as well as in my classes at school. As a teenager, I would close my eyes while listening to my favourite music and I would see colourful pictures moving to the music. It was amazing and I wished I was able to wire up my head so that others would be able to see it too. Since that wasn't possible I made cartoons and tried to paint the pictures.

See some of Birgit Antoni's work here: <http://www.birgitantoni.de/gemaelde.html>