

VISIONARY ART

The Art of Randee Savage

Randee Savage's guitar and art are both vitally important to her. But when pressed, Ms. Savage says she prefers painting because it is more in her control. "The colors and the paints are right there," she says.

She started painting and taking photos as a child with her Brownie camera. As a teenager, Ms. Savage says, she ran away from home. She landed in a reform school in upstate New York, where her art teacher encouraged her work. After high school, Ms. Savage attended the Vancouver (B.C.) School of Art.

Although she loved studying in Vancouver, Ms. Savage returned to her hometown—New York City—but stayed for only a year because of a nervous breakdown triggered by drug use. As part of her rehabilitation, Ms. Savage

studied art at the Pratt Institute and the School of Visual Arts, both in New York. This time, she studied film, animation and editing, and digital photography.

Over the years, she's found the combination of music and art as her source of strength. "Art helps me work through very hard, rough times," she says.

Ms. Savage worked in the film industry in postproduction facilities doing videotape operations for more than 15 years. She says she was originally misdiagnosed with schizophrenia and now has bipolar disorder. She is on disability but manages to continue her creative work.

"I love running around photographing things. It's like a hunt. I love manipulating things with PhotoShop," says

Ms. Savage, adding that the geometrics in her paintings are influenced by computer animation. Many of her photos are in black and white. "I like the more subtle tones. I'm not thinking," she says. "Photography is more of a primal thing; I'll just be struck by something I see."

In addition to exhibitions of her work, including a recent exhibit at the Fountain Gallery in New York City, Ms. Savage plays in a band called Savage Linx. She has exhibited at the opening of the Times Square Hotel Gallery, and the World Monument Gallery at the Prince George Hotel, both in New York.

For more information on Ms. Savage and her work, visit her self-designed Web site at www.randeesavage.com.

—Deeanna Franklin



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Guitar Shield, 2000

"A lot of my stuff is pretty impulsive. I started with the red guitar, and the painting sat for weeks. Then I started working with other colors, and more guitars emerged. Guitars protect."



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City Speed, 2000

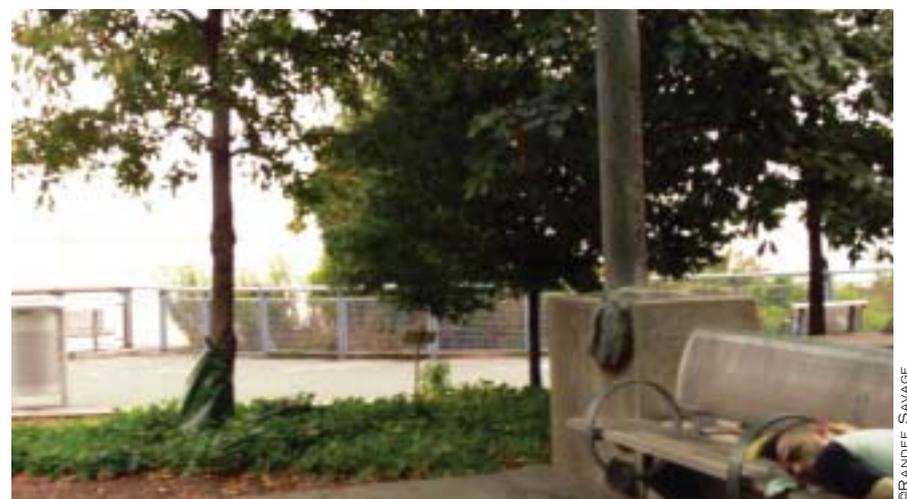
"The Museum of Modern Art accepted this submission for its "Life of the City" exhibit. It captures the speed and pulse of the city."



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Impulse, 2005

"It was just that. I wanted to do something that was a slash, stab style, but I was very selective about the colors. I had these colors in mind."



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Sleeping River, 2007

"I saw the guy sleeping there on the bench, and I thought this would make a great shot. He didn't wake up, and he had a nice smile on his face."