

Sandra Vista

Born: 1952 Nogales, AZ

1974-1976- University of Az

BA Art: San Diego State University 1978

California Single Subject Teaching Credential (Art) 1979

MFA: California State University Long Beach (Painting) 1982

Vista a “Pattern and Decoration” painter, “Neo-Dadaist” and mixed media artist has been influenced by college instructors that emphasized the elements and principles of design as the foundation of her artwork. Because of her early influences, formal approaches to design are essential to each art piece whether it is two or three dimensional.

Her introduction to art at the University of Arizona was influenced by instructors like James G. Davis who stressed narratives and multiple panels of Francis Bacon. Mark Rothko’s horizon lines-the division of the sky and earth were also Vista’s early inspirations. Each painting she creates begins with a division of a horizon line.

In the late 1970’s “Pattern and Decoration” and Memphis Style where an integral part of the art in San Diego and Southern California. Vista was introduced to pattern-stripe paintings of visiting artist Patrick Cauley. In addition. Mark Rendelman, who taught dry brush and color modeling, began to formulate Vista’s style that continues to evolve today.

The mixed media work that dominates Vista’s practice has always been her primary art form since she was a child. She believes that collage and assemblage have origins with the cave paintings and using what is handy to make art. Her introduction to Dadaism and artists like Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray and Kurt Schwitters gave her permission to use everyday objects in her artwork.

Patterns, repetition, and formal elements of design are integrated in current her “Faux Relic” pieces that incorporate sewing beads, charms, old jewelry to fabric. These pieces suspend reality to create relics that could have been. Also, the “zipper tab” series contains panels with thousands of zipper tabs adhered to the surface one at a time. The conceptual aspect of Dadaism is combined with labor intensive activity.

What is important to Vista’s art practice is that multiple medias serve a continual devotion to creating and making art.