

An Essential Artist's Newsletter

Words and Works of Grace Kelly Rivera

Fall 2009

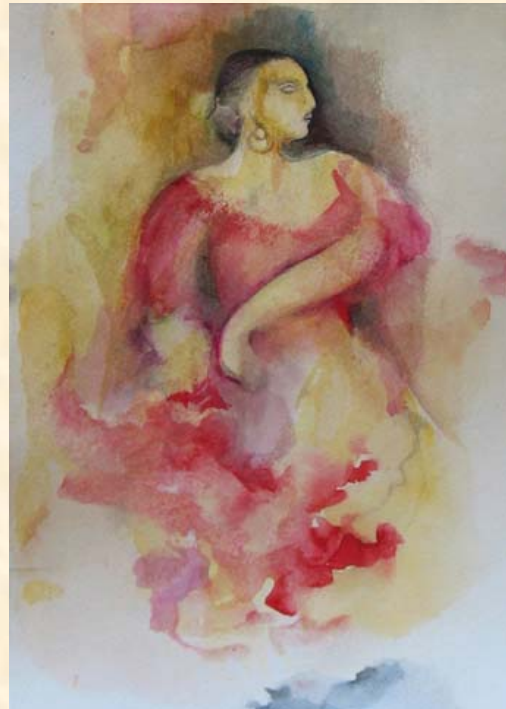


Having performed Flamenco at the World Music Festival in Sacramento no more than four days ago in triple digit temperatures I can say that summer still lingers like the trace of a habit one has dropped. The rhythm and pulse is Autumnal, but summer won't stop dancing. Let's call this the cusp issue.

Previously I've written of the Muse and the Artist as a medium through which pure creative intelligence is given the opportunity of being. Rumi talks of the reed flute – the body with the “holes” of the senses able to make music when clear enough to let the divine breath blow through. Self knowledge informs us of what does or doesn't contribute to making this space of active receptivity.

Know thyself often translates into know what one is not. On that note, there's been another big shift around my project of painting large scale illuminations of the poems of the thirteenth century mystic Rumi. This and other factors left me in an artistic limbo that seemed to permeate all of my projects in the studio. I've kept painting, treading water, working on landscapes for two local group shows, but my inner artistic compass seemed to show no true north.

But in my Flamenco practice I've enjoyed much new movement while studying with a different teacher, and performed more than expected this summer. There will soon be a video made available of my dancing. This will coincide with a grant application to produce a show of Flamenco paintings. These paintings will serve as backdrop to a live Flamenco performance at the show's opening, followed by other culturally educational events to be offered during the run. I thought



Grace Kelly Rivera
PO Box 1924
Grass Valley, CA 95945

www.essentialartist.com
kelly@essentialartist.com
530.274.2833

it might be fun to show you a work in progress – The Dancer in the Candle Flame. This is the first of the series projected for the show.

I have been told that these newsletters better resemble a blog, and so be it. The process is so much a part of the news – it *is* the news often time. On the “All the news that’s fit to print” front, the juiciest is the upcoming exhibition of Jazz Art at the Mondavi Center, affiliated with UC Davis, during their Jazz festival which will span a three month period. It opens December 8 with Wynton Marsalis and his orchestra and other jazz legends will follow. Pieces previously exhibited at the Jazz Heritage Center in San Francisco will be hung at various exhibition spaces in the center.

December will be here in a blink and of course, there are those holidays...bringing me to another piece of news. I have a “shop” on Etsy, a big online site that sells anything handmade, including art. I am selling my museum quality giclee prints there at an introductory very low price of 85.00. It is a rock bottom price that will last only a short time. You will likely be buying gifts – please consider giving a gift of art. One up side to these topsy turvy times we are living through is that we are given need to consider all we do a little more carefully, including gift giving. You can give someone a unique work of art by a world class artist that will provide a little window into the soul throughout a lifetime without breaking the pocket, meanwhile supporting the continuation of that art. Seems like pretty good gift giving to me.

On a final note, by the time this reaches you we will have new content up on www.anesentialartist.com including an article I wrote published in “More” magazine’s online membership site. It is titled “How Al Pacino Changed My Life” and tells a small part of the true story of meeting my first artistic inspiration. That gifted actor’s excellence was enough to elevate me out of the oppressions of my early life to a place of poetic possibility and beyond – bringing me and us to this moment here now. Enjoy it thoroughly, wherever you may be.

Shalom,

Grace Kelly Rivera

