

## Noel Sandino

### **Who are you and what do you do?**

Noel Sandino is my name and I am a painter and printmaker.

**Why do you do what you do?** The painter paints because he or she has to. I don't feel like I have a choice. It is essential to my being. It is the desire to be godlike in a way. I love to create.

**How do you work?** My method is very process oriented. I am basically experimental and bold in my painting more than my printmaking which is a little more planned out ahead of time.

**What's your background?** My degree is in painting and drawing but I studied photography before getting into fine art and still love that as an art form. Almost all my studies have been 2D however.

**What has been a seminal experience?** Working with a mentor who helped me discover my style by pointing me in the right direction.

**How has your practice changed over time?** I used to work representationally, but for me that became mundane, at least in the way I was working. Now I pull from my imagination and memory to come up with new ways of seeing and presenting things. I love stuff that is kind of quirky anyway which has to come from upstairs.

**What art do you most identify with?** I love all Ab Ex art and Bay Area Figurative of the fifties and sixties and also older expressionistic art from Kandinsky and Gorky for example.



**What work do you most enjoy doing?** Mixed media art such as printmaking combined with collage but then some days I would say painting in mixed media.

**What's your strongest memory of your childhood?** The confidence that my father imparted in me. He always told me that whatever I put my mind to I could do.

**What jobs have you done other than being an artist?** I was a nursing aide, psychiatric nurses aide, a veterinary assistant and later a business owner with the decorative painting business. I also play bass in a jazz trio.

**Why art?** Good question. Well, I like to think it keeps me sane, but then some days it drives me insane.

**Is the artistic life lonely? What do you do to counteract it?** Lonely sounds like a bad thing and I don't find it so because I

love my private (alone) time. It is solitary time and I make sure that I get out and connect with others on a somewhat regular basis. I couldn't create if I didn't have lonely time. It is the sacred part of the process.

**What do you dislike about the art world?** That much of the general public doesn't know how to appreciate and experience true fine art. We do a disservice to our children by not teaching them about the arts in school and, therefore, they don't have any true understanding of it later on. They think that shopping at Target and finding a framed print they like is nice art.

**What do you dislike about your work?** The fact that I sometimes feel that it is important to destroy old history that haunts me endlessly. I wish I could just let it go but I literally will cut apart canvases and sometimes regret it.

**What do you like about your work?** All my new stuff. I paint with abandon and love the process even though it can also make one crazy because the resolution can take a very long time. I get around this by working on about three things (paintings or prints) at any given time.

**What research do you do?** Research? What's that?...no seriously, I'm kidding. I read a lot of books on artists and study artworks as a pastime. I am always asking questions like "what makes this piece work? or why did this person choose to paint this?"

**Name something you love, and why.** Scuba diving. I love it because when I dive I feel like I'm in another world. I love the water and boats and wildlife and the feeling of weightlessness, so it really is my happy place.

**Name something you don't love, and why.** Mean people because they are not nice.

**Name three artists you'd like to be compared to.** Diebenkorn, Chagall and Matisse, but I don't have an ego...ha.

**What's the best piece of advice you've been given?** To paint everyday.

**Professionally, what's your goal?** To sell a lot more art and get paid for what it is worth.

**What wouldn't you do without?** A studio to work out of.