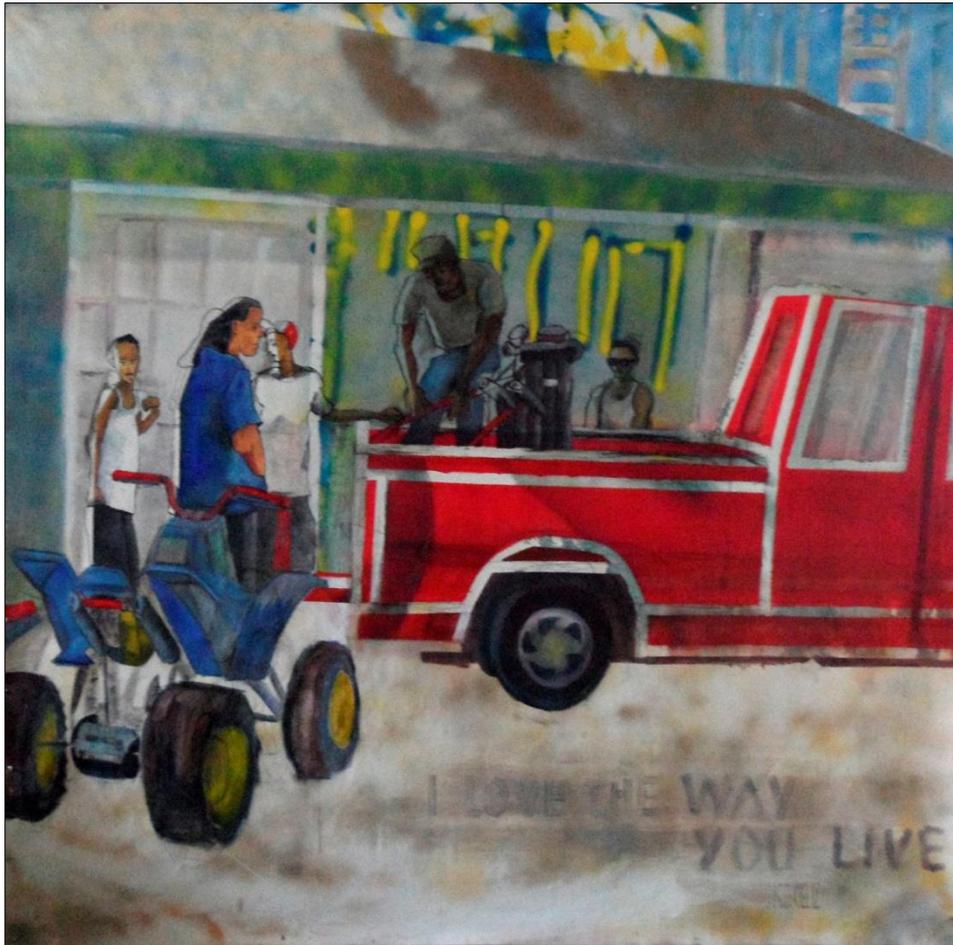


THE 
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-in-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

BIKKEL

2012 Griffis Art Center's International Artist-in-Residence
Curacuo / Vlaardingen, Kingdom of the Netherlands



"I Love The Way You Live"

Date Acquired: 07/29/2012, Date Created: 07/2012
Framed Dimensions: Unframed, Picture Dimensions: 80 x 77 in.
Medium: Mixed Media on Canvas

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BIKKEL's work comes straight from the heart. It is a direct, artistic reaction to things in her personal life that touch her deeply ... the ups and downs of the ones she loves. It is an art that emphasizes the personal whereabouts of the artist BIKKEL, and everything that touches her deeply in her unique, colorful, and sometimes tragic life.

In that sense, BIKKEL is an artistic witness of her own life and of the people that 'get under her skin' because of the unfairness of their fate. Perhaps she recognizes in these people an undeserved suffering that does not put one down, but actually sets a vital lust for life on fire, as if she wants to say: "Look, here I stand before you: naked, imperfect, vulnerable, but full of life!"

This quality of the testimonial straight from the heart is particularly visible in her paintings. The represented scenes are always frontal – which means without complex spatial effects – and layered, as if three transparent paintings were combined together. She uses primary colors and applies her paint in a refined combination of stencil and free hand.

Some paintings have the character of an emotional digestion or blur. The subject in question almost disappears in a glowing atmosphere of color and structure. These are the works where emotion is all important. Other works have a more symbolic, almost narrative character. The pictorial layers painted over each other without flowing into one another. Her message, born out of a shared fate and a genuine sense of shock, is central in these works.

It is the sheer pleasure BIKKEL takes in the creative process that runs like a life string through her life. A vital creativity that softens hard feelings, heals wounds and invites the artist to *encounter* and *process* new people and materials in an artistic manner.

Drs. Vincent Botella