

Please answer in detail!

1. Cardinal changes took place in your life (change of profession, moving to London)... Was it hard for You to take those decisions? Have You ever regretted it ?

I am not a planner , I normally make decisions instinctively and I don't regret any of them because looking back, when you know all the facts, is like cheating and anybody can do that. One totally premeditated decision that I made was, at the age of 50, to sell my house and my business to raise the capital I needed to finance my art projects. It was quite scary, but only for a minute. I had been dreaming about it for a long time and the reward was immediate : it felt great !

2. In Your opinion, has art (Yours particularly) an ability to change the world's political situation? Why?

To think that my art has the potential of changing the world political situation would be a little presumptuous on my side especially when we witness every day uncountable examples of sick political situations that can hardly be changed by the very millions of people who vote or wish for changes.

Art is the most honest commentary on the times we live in, I feel privileged to be part of this. We are freer now than we have ever been to express ourselves in this fashion. At the same time the freer we get the stronger Big Brother gets : what a contradiction !

I wish I could be a politician to govern fairly, a religious leader to guide pragmatically and a powerful entrepreneur to serve as an example and inspiration to others, but I am none of these. However what I can do hopefully is to create art that makes people think about global issues.

3. You have many works which carry a sharply social character. Is it a protest against the society of consumerism ? Or what is it ?

Definitely not a protest, just an observation.

Mankind is a funny lot. As dependent as we are from one another, we have constantly tried to be different adorning ourselves with ever more eccentric accessories which would give away our status and individual styles.

With globalisation our natural individualism has been eroded as people of different cultures and races end up wearing the same clothes , going to the same trendy restaurants or holiday places and sporting the same accessories.

It seems that people look for instant recognition and acceptance by showing luxury brands. It seems to defeat the purpose really as we all end up looking the same.

Consumer branding has reached such heights now days, with the many media "weapons" available, that is just short of brain washing with many victims accountable for.

Branding is like the carrot to the donkey.

Even art hasn't escaped, with many people buying instantly recognisable works as status accessories.

I have a nasty feeling that what a lot of people care about is to be perceived as if they can afford it.

Throwing your financial muscle around has become a substitute to the feathers of a bird of paradise.

I find the subject of consumerism an endless source of ideas.

4. If You have an opportunity to caution Your generation against something, what would You say to people?

To caution my generation would be quite useless as, at my age most mistakes have been made already and, if you haven't figured things out by now, well.....

5. Would You mind telling us about Your work in cinema? What did that experience give to You?

It was fun, I made a living, I met lots of pretty girls and it felt good to decide that I wanted to be in the movies and to be able to do it.

I started as an actor in Rome when I was 21 and my first movie was with Elisabeth Taylor and, guess who, Andy Warhol who was playing a cameo role.

The movie was titled The Driver's Seat.

This opened the doors to lots of opportunities at the time.

After several films I opened a very successful production company with two partners : one was assassinated the other arrested on drugs charges.

Rome was a "terribly" decadent place at the time and I lost many friends.

Soon after, the Prime Minister Aldo Moro, was kidnapped and delivered dead in the boot of a car.

I felt like I was living in a third world Country and I was very angry.

Kidnapping was rampant and I was worried for the safety of my children.

Doing "straight" business was nearly impossible.

It was time to leave.

This is a typical example of how Art would not have been able to change Politics.

6. If you have an opportunity to create any sculpture in any city of the world, what would it be and where?

I have not given this subject any thought and I think it would take me more time than we have to figure it out.

I am a perfectionist and very indecisive.

If I had this opportunity I think I would have smoke coming out of my ears and levels of stress generated by creativity that would be dangerous to my health !

7. You use different materials, which one is more interesting to work with and why? And which one is harder to cope with?

We all are as different as our fingerprints.

We could say that the way different individuals perform the same tasks in different ways is their STYLE.

Resin is the medium I mostly use, you could say it is my signature style at the moment.

I started to use resin as it was the perfect medium for the Jelly Babies which I made for my body of work on CLONING in 1999.

I love its translucent and light reflective qualities.

The effects are both happy and moody at the same time.

I also love it because it is unexploited and therefore new, not an easy to find quality when it comes to mediums.

In addition it is technically by far the most challenging and punishing .

Quite funny when most people think that these things just pop out of a mould as you see them in the gallery.

It took me years to develop the technique to be able to produce my work . When I started I looked for help around the world only to be told that what I was trying to achieve was impossible on that scale.

I had to do it alone and now I can confidently say that there is nobody out there that does what I do.

8. Would You like to make any cardinal changes in Your life at the present time?

By the time I was 30 I was divorced two times.

I thought I would never get married again and I lived a fiercely single life until recently, when I

met my lovely wife Lorena.

It was so natural and spontaneous that we got married without even thinking about it.

It's great, my work is going well and I am doing something I loved all my life.

I have a sculpture of a resin skull floating inside a resin sphere that I made when I was 17 when I was already dreaming about being an artist.

What more could I wish for !

Thank You!

Looking forward to Your new artworks!