

## **Vincent Cruz: Visual Artist**

Vincent Cruz is an animated and sensitive young artist who possesses a remarkable memory and a passion for things related with natural and ancient history and mythology. His work consists of representations of mythological characters and surprisingly tender and insightful portraits, mostly of women. He studied at Sheridan College and at the Central Technical School Art Programs. His work has recently been exhibited in AWOL Gallery's annual Square Foot Exhibition. He is diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, one of several autism spectrum disorders.

*Why do you paint?*

I've always been fascinated by painting. I like to express ideas through images.

*How do you choose a subject?*

I want to create a hybrid culture made up of bits and pieces of different cultures. I'm fascinated by gods from different cultures and I bring them together to create a multicultural pantheon. On a different level, these gods also represent pieces of my personality and my struggles—a need to bring control in an uncontrollable universe. In my portraits, I bring together different ideas of aesthetic beauty, held together by a faint resemblance to someone who I feel strongly for.

*What are your struggles?*

Isolation. I feel like I am in an artistic bottle. I find it difficult to penetrate what I perceive to be the "art world" or even a peer group of art-related people. This extends beyond my art, though, this is a struggle I have in all aspects of my life.

*What ideas would you like to explore in the future?*

I've tried one or two surrealistic pieces—pieces that bring together random and non-sensical images that appear spontaneously in my head. My paintings really express where I am in life, so, we'll see.

For more information about Vincent's work, contact Jean Rebello at [info@vincentcruz.ca](mailto:info@vincentcruz.ca).