

MICHELA SORRENTINO

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BIO

Michela Sorrentino born in Montreal, Canada and studied fine art in Vancouver Canada before heading to Europe to further her studies in art and textile design. She studied in Paris, France and then worked many years as a textile designer in France, Italy and Spain. She later returned to Canada and worked as a graphic designer. These formative years created a fertile ground for Sorrentino's past and current work.

Sorrentino juxtaposes bold design and unusual colour combinations with dramatic mark making and unique symbols that reflect an intuitive style of working. Within each of Sorrentino's works are layer upon layer of marks, which she often combines with larger organic or architectural shapes as well as graffiti inspired typography that recalls a language without being too literal. The abstract images that form her art are symbols for what interests the artist in her every-day life. These are personal images for Sorrentino and are true reflections of her spontaneous responses to the visual world around her.

STATEMENT

My background in textile and graphic design continue to influence my sense of colour and composition. The repetitive motifs and patterns, and the use of typography and drawing all stem from my design practice. I tend toward recurring shapes and frequently employ formulas, text from stream of consciousness. These formulas and texts do not necessarily have literal meanings, but are incorporated as aesthetic devices that provide me with ideas and inspiration as the work evolves.

I enjoy combining organic with architectural shapes; thereby creating a tension in my compositions—see this as the 'yin' and 'yang' in my work. At first glance, the bold designs and vibrant colours stand out in my paintings. Upon closer examination there are many minute details and layers of information to discover.

Experimentation is constant in my work; my work is always changing and I am continually moving forward to maintain that element of surprise for myself as well as for my viewers. It is important to me in my process to push the boundaries of my work and allow for its continual growth, as well as my development as an artist.