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Limmie interview with Loredana Zega

Hello, Loredana! Glad to be with you in this interview. We will ask some interesting things related to your life. So let's start our interview. It will be very fun and enjoyed by Limmiers.

1. Can you introduce yourself to Limmiers as a calligrapher? You can tell us a exciting experiences of your life as a calligrapher.

Hello to all Limmiers first!

Yes, sure I am a calligrapher but I would rather say Calligrapher Artist, as I am not really limited only to pen on paper, envelopes or invitations ☺. My calligraphy goes beyond paper... And yes, I am in love with letters, brushes and textures!

Hmm... exciting experiences? There are so many!

It was one funny moment when I wanted to shoot a video (can be found now in You Tube) on our small Slovenian airport. I got permission few days earlier, but then when I came to airport that day I have been asked how much water I would need to erase my writing off the asphalt!?! ☺ Well, when the inscription was done, they didn't want to hear anything about the cleaning anymore. Everybody came out and took photos with my calligraphy inscription and their airplanes...

Oh... and the day before shooting (I think it was already midnight ☺), I was wandering... "Airport is quite big... What should I use for the brush?" Then I took our broom and went out to write sketches on the street in front of our house. I thought the color will erase with the first rain but it stayed till the next summer when they changed all the asphalt! ☺

2. You mentioned that you have been very inspired from your aunt when you see the first step in calligraphy. How big is the effect of what you see from the aunt to your life before you choose the path of your life as a calligrapher?

When I was a little girl I was really dying to see calligraphy written, magical letters! (as I still do ☺) And I started to learn calligraphy very early in my life. But as I was quite hyperactive as a child, I had at that time lots of different hobbies... I was training dancing quite seriously, painting, singing, making sculptures, and even acting in a theatre and TV ☺ So the choice of being calligrapher was really a decision between of all those things at the age of 18, I guess. ☺ I started to write exercise books for the workshops and begun to teach all over Slovenia. In the last 13 years I have had over 2000 student which also has built me up as a calligrapher. But one huge step forward was a master class with Irish, world known calligraphy master

Denis Brown in 2006. With his guidance and support I made big progress and became a real calligrapher ☺... Before that I study calligraphy all by myself – which is so painful and long lasting method! ☺

3. As a calligrapher, you must deeply understand the beauty of form letters and you really understand the creative process in creating a unique piece of letters. What was your creative process when you're designing a calligraphy?

This is an interesting question! Well, when I have had so many work for clients and in the same time I have been in a process for gaining the intermediate level for National Diploma in Calligraphy I invented a technique that helps me also nowadays. I was so exhausted and I lied down on the bed. I knew the deadline was close, so I closed my eyes and started to make designs in my mind. First I picked the text, then I started to make positions of the text on paper, then I chose the color, combining different scripts and so on... The next day I woke up and I just realized this piece of work in couple of hours. It was great! Nowadays the designing process goes even faster. When a client gives me a text I see immediately a final piece! If I don't see it immediately, it takes really long to realize it ☹... I need deadlines ☺

4. Based on your opinion, how fast a young artist can understand about calligraphy? Is a young artist needs to learn a specific education to understand the science of calligraphy?

I was a self learning calligrapher so I know how hard the path on your own could be. I really recommend to young artists to visit some really good calligraphy workshops and what is really important to improve your skills day by day at home: by studying letterforms and different techniques... Your eye will become trained to see the differences, good solutions and mistakes and finally you will notice your progress. And only through patiently receiving critics (from yourself and others) you can become master... and on that point you will realize that you are on the beginning! ☺

5. You say that calligraphy is a part of your life and you really fall in love with letters. So what is the meaning that you have got as a calligrapher as long as you create a variety of beautiful letters in your life? What is the nicest thing you feel as a calligrapher?

I am always saying: if there is life after life I want to be a calligrapher some more lives... ☺ Lots of people say that I am born with that talent... But I say: "No, I am born with a passion for beautiful letters, all other is a very hard work and self discipline..." ☺ And what is so beautiful of being calligrapher? I think it is so nice to see a satisfying client's faces and positive reactions... This is like a gift to my soul. It gives me new energy to create!

6. You mentioned that already brings together the letters, music and dance with a cutting edge technique. What techniques do you create when you unite between letters, music and dance?

A technique that I like the most is writing with a credit card ☺ on the spread flour which is - as an element a great medium to work with on the stage. For an outdoor performance I adore a broom which is my favorite brush ☺. Why? Hmm... The bigger the letter the more details can be seen... And I am so in love in these details! ☺ All these techniques and the scripts that I use are based on the square oblique "nib" – but used also on its edges... It is like dancing with a tool. Changing positions, lifting the corners, making fast and energetic strokes...

7. Music, letters and a dance, whether you're uniting a rhythm in a calligraphy so that you get a dynamic movement in your work? Try to explain to us about this cutting-edge technique.

In the beginning of creating my first performance: "Calligraphy is dance!" using a flour as a material, had a relation to a dance floor which is quite similar word ☺. During the performance a flour in the dancing movements is creating abstract letters in the air, while a body is acting like a big writing tool and in the same time as a letter itself. In this performance I am searching for a relation between dance and calligraphy which are on the first sight so different themes... But I have found so many things that unite them. For that research I filmed some videos and I included them as a part of this performance. The main two components are rhythm and movement, which are the main components of dance and calligraphy in the same time! So in one moment those different disciplines become best friends. ☺ In the end... dance combined with flying flour is one special sensitive and emotional experience for me as also for the audience. ☺

8. Do you work as a teacher in addition to your profession as a freelance calligrapher? Do you also become a teacher of calligraphy?

As I have already mentioned I really start with my professional career with teaching! Well now is everything so different. ☺ I am not organizing workshop anymore but I am invited to teach abroad. Next year I am booked for some interesting places in Italy and Germany to teach. I am happy. ☺

9. What are the characteristics of your work? Do you have a unique style when you're designing a variety of works of calligraphy?

Every master or artist has his fingerprint even if his pieces are very different. Also for me they say it is like that. ☺ Well I am known for my wall inscriptions, calligraphic lamps and performances... Almost all of those are done with big calligraphy tools and in various different scripts. Maybe that is the most significant fingerprint for my works. A big scale...

10. Is it true that some of your work has been exhibited and how often do you organize an exhibition of calligraphy?

Yes, I had lots of solo exhibitions in these years, but I like group exhibitions more as I don't have to be worried about so many different things ☺. Last year I was invited to one special conference in Germany among 7 best calligraphers in Europe to create an exhibition within 7 days... It was such a fun and magical artistic week – so creative and mind blowing! In the end we made an exhibition with a great diversity of styles and techniques. This exhibition was then hosted by many different galleries around Austria and Germany!

For the next year I am preparing one special exhibition for blind people.

11. What do you expect from our journey in creating an environment of creativity? According to your opinion why Limmie very helpful and were able to bridged the various circles of creativity from around the world?

Everybody has his own eyes and therefore his own taste for art. The environment that you create is a wonderful platform where people from all around the globe can

share creations or follow different artists. So it helps to promote art that can be visible to lots of different profiles of people and maybe someday can be successful, too ☺
Me? What I expect? I don't expect... I live my dream... I live the moment. I am happy when I got new commission, new invitation...

12. Finally we come to the end of our interview, so we really enjoyed this interview. So at the end of this interview we thank you for your time, to spend your time in telling us about the exciting experience of your life. Viva La Limmiers!

Thank you very much for all the patience with me ☺ I wish you all the best... especially in these days around New Year...
And Limmiers be creative, design your future!

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