

By Michael W. Sasser

Photos provided by Noel Suarez

ARTundressed ART + SENSUALITY

From the very beginnings of man's foray into art, the sensual aspects of life, such as nudity and eroticism have been part and parcel of the artist's tools. Somewhere yet to be discovered is probably a cave with pre-historic stick figure drawings with an extra *stick* here or there. Since it is impossible to survey the human experience without the inclusion of such raw, personal perspectives, it only makes sense that nudity and eroticism would have long been planks with which our modern impressions of art would be constructed.

During the weekend of May 18-20, ES Arts Group is presenting the seventh annual ARTundressed Festival. Celebrating art in its most creative, original, sensual and bared core, ARTundressed will showcase more than 120 international artists and performers in South Florida's most provocative art event. Curated by knowledgeable art experts the ARTundressed Festival displays both the humorous and the sensual aspects of creative nude art, and also features performance art, chic fashion, live music and cutting edge visuals.

ARTundressed takes place at Private Key Club in Wynwood. For schedule and more information, visit www.artundressed.com.

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- NOEL



Wire Magazine sat down with presenting artist, the acclaimed Noel to discuss the creative nude art festival and his role in it.

MWS: How did you first become familiar with ARTundressed?

NS: Fritz Romeus and I have known each other for several years, back when South Beach was a small creative heaven for amazing talented people. Fritz always liked my art because it focused on the human body and sensuality, which is a very important part of my work. Once he created and started doing ARTundressed, he asked me several times to be part of it, but due to my schedule I was able to be part of it only twice... and now.

MWS: What prompted your interest in participating in ARTundressed?

NS: Fritz and I have been talking for a while about doing a painting created specially for ARTundressed, and since the event takes place in Miami he felt that this would be the perfect time for me to create a painting that represents the event... for which I'm very pleased!

MWS: What is it about your work that you believe "fit" with the themes and parameters of ARTundressed?

NS: The beauty of the human body, movement, sensuality and total freedom of creative expression.

MWS: Tell our readers about the piece you created to represent ARTundressed 2017.

NS: This painting is a new version of one that I did in 1991 titled "The Birth," so for 26 years, I've been thinking about re-creating this piece. Once Fritz told me that I was the presenting artist for ARTundressed 2017, there was only one choice, "The Birth II."



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MWS: What are your expectations for ARTundressed?

NS: I learned long time ago that expecting anything is the number one ingredient for disappointments! With that said, being part of ARTundressed several times before as an exhibiting artist and guest, regardless of any expectations, it will be an amazing creative and discovering experience... particularly for those attending for the first time.

MWS: What do you hope guests experience viewing the totality of this show?

NS: For the attending guests to understand that the human body is one of the world's best and most beautiful creations, and that there is absolutely nothing wrong with appreciating it, celebrating it, admiring it, listening to it and more importantly... getting to know it to its absolute totality!

MWS: How would you characterize your own artistic style?

NS: Unique, different, Noel. A true artist is always searching, always looking to feed their hunger for creativity. Of course this takes time, but it is within this time that our research in an almost subconscious way creates the unique artistic language of an artist.

MWS: Who were the greatest influences on or inspirations for your career?

NS: My family was my biggest influence. I grew up in a family of artists! My style is a mélange of styles as a result of my research and studies. Starting with the classical figurative masters, then art deco, cubism and of course my life in the theater as a ballet dancer from the age of five to 30... thus my obsession with the human body!



MWS: What is Noel working on now?

NS: What am I not working on now! I'm always working, and loving it! For the past four years, I've been part of Oceania's Artist in Residence program. Whenever I'm not traveling the world with Oceania, I'm working on new collections or doing exhibits and events within the U.S. as well as other countries. I just introduced my new bronze sculpture limited edition, "The Dancer II," and two new collections: "Siluetas" and "Lost in Motion." Also, I'm introducing my new collection of beautiful tops and scarves. This is a collaboration with Elliott Prada from "La Isla," a wonderful jewel in Little Havana. Elliott is another great artist and we are re-creating very popular images of my work into a medium that brings fashion art to a whole new level. There is a new label coming up soon, look for it... "Noel by La Isla." I can't wait to unveil this collection!

MWS: What advice would you offer to aspiring young artists?

NS: Don't ever give up! Stick to your passion (keyword passion) and beliefs, they will lead you to the next level. With that said and particularly in your first 3-5 years, remember that you don't know it all and the most important constructive criticism could come from those you least expected! Everybody's feedback is key for your creativity to evolve!

MWS: How would you characterize the visual arts scene in South Florida today as compared to earlier years of your career?

NS: The Miami where I started (circa 1987) with an amazing group of super talented artists, art supporters and people that were creating very unique happenings (particularly in Miami Beach) was very different from the Miami of today. Although Miami has become an international art mecca and it comes across this way to the world, from the inside it is a total different story. It is quite interesting and the details will take an entirely different *Wire Magazine* interview, ha-ha! Regardless, the opportunities are out there and they are endless, particularly with today's amazing digital world!

MWS: Is there anything else you would like to share with *Wire Magazine* readers?

NS: Yes... please support the arts and artists! All it takes is to get out there and check what they are creating. Even if you can't buy it, talk about it and post it on all social media. See you May 18 at the opening vernissage of ARTundressed 2017!

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