

KATHRYN  
MARKEL  
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FINE ARTS  
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Cornely, Tina. "Yolanda Sánchez". *Miami Art*. June 2012.



Brilliant blooms from a surreal enchanted garden seem to burst from her abstract paintings. You can almost smell the faint scent of lavender as you are transported to the countryside of Vincent Van Gogh's Provence, France. Her style is impressionistic yet deeply steeped in spiritual Asian philosophies. Creating art is a meditative process for Yolanda. She draws her inspiration from Bonnard, Matisse, Mitchell, Van Gogh as well as Chinese and Japanese art and calligraphy.

In Yolanda's own words she "attempts to evoke an experience through the relationship of surface marks and the paint itself, alluding to an abstract garden—a place set apart... where awareness is expanded and the senses enriched." She utilizes unique brush strokes, color, texture, drip marks and light in bold ways stimulating viewers to activate their senses as she welcomes them into the allegorical garden of her imagination.

Yolanda is an artist who not only holds a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from Yale but a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. She is a Fulbright Scholar who studied classical and contemporary painting in Spain. And last but not least, for the last 15 years Yolanda has been the Director of Miami International Airport's Fine Art & Cultural Affairs Department. She also supports the community through various positions in institutions such as the county's Art in Public Places program and the Cultural Affairs Council.

As if she did not have enough on her plate, Yolanda recently founded the Miami chapter of "A Home Within", a national organization providing pro-bono psychotherapy for foster youths. As their Clinical Director she lays the groundwork for other clinicians to grant troubled youths stability and a better chance at a productive adulthood. Bravo!

It is hard to believe that many years ago Yolanda developed Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, which prompted her to shift her energies toward art as a way to harmonize her life, nourish and heal her body and rejuvenate her soul. This illness gave her impetus to rearrange her life and go back to school to obtain a degree in fine arts. Indeed, Yolanda is an inspiration to us all as she is living proof that if you love what you do, it does not feel like work.

To witness a sample of the healing seeds that Yolanda has been planting over the years at the airport, make sure you stop by Miami International Airport South Terminal J Gallery to view

RWANDA: *A Path to Peace* and South Terminal H for the recently added Carybé murals created by Brazilian artist Hector Julio Paride Bernabo.

Layovers have become a welcome respite at the Miami International Airport amidst the quality exhibitions and site-specific projects curated by the lovely, compassionate and talented Yolanda Sánchez.