



Carolina Echeverria is no stranger to controversy. Her past exhibits have always challenged the social norm. Carolina believes in the power of a woman to change the current of perception in today's world. A stranger in a strange land, she has adapted to a new culture, but protected her true self from it at the same time. This delicate balance is seen in her paintings and displayed in her "Garments for Survival" – a series of metal dresses that combine delicate femininity with the instinct to protect that beauty.

Carolina Echeverria's new exhibition at Splurge Gallery is titled "Crimson".

The paint is so fresh, so alive, that it looks as though it were applied yesterday – vibrant, intense red, ochre, orange, and gold. Echeverria's brush-strokes bring a sense of balance through these violent colors, that finally evoke serenity, beauty and calmness. Chilean artist Carolina Echeverria explores her love for street art, body art, and idealism.

Tonya Clark – Art Gallery Culture Writer



Integrety – by Carolina Echeverria

Best of Bucerias: You are originally from Chile, is that where your love of art began?

Well, it started to intrigue me in Chile, but I was not supported by my family, which thought of it as a waste of time, therefore I entered University of the School of Design. So straight, so rigid, so not me! A teacher once humiliated me in front of the class by pointing out my 'artistic deviations', because I transgressed the rules. You see, I used my powers of reason and that was taboo. I embraced my new deviant character with a passion. Once I left Chile and came to Canada, I found that art was my only way of expression since language suffered such a great blow, as many immigrants find out. You become an illiterate of sorts and people judge you by the way you sound. It is maddening to realize you cannot really express what you are thinking. Art became a safe way to do so, more effectively and it opened up a world where language barriers no longer existed. Canada allowed me to fully engage in Fine Art studies and I did so fully. I graduated with Distinction, from Concordia University in 1993.

What other artist do you admire and why?

My muse, my teacher, my inspiration has always been Frida Kahlo. She is to me, the ultimate creator, capable of sublimating extreme personal suffering and turn it into beauty. She was the product of immigration yet embraced Mexico, her new culture with such passion. She understood Mexico, she breathed Mexico and she created a body of work which transcended culture, languages, gender and time. She personified what I think of the 'real' artist - the canary in the coalmine - an active participant in society, no longer hidden in a studio but engaged with politics, the environment, their cultural roots, and overall, the advancement of women.

You mention the power of art in society to create dialog and further a certain ideology. What do your paintings say to the world?

Even if I do believe in "art for a cause " - I don't believe it should necessary further a certain ideology. It should be an active part in our lives and hopefully inspire us to greater ideals. I admire Frida Kahlo's promoting Mexico's issues at the time and especially love her making quiet a scandal while visiting the USA at that time. I don't see many influential artists today making any political commentary nor disturbing the status quo. Art today is mostly about pleasing. Please please so someone buys. Not very lofty indeed. However, my painting say to the world : "Trust yourself", "Don't fall for the fear mongers, TRUST, believe in what's is inside your heart. Call it Jesus, call it Buddha, call it integrity, it does not matter what the name since it is LOVE. Trust in love and you will find PEACE. Trust your inner compass and stay true to yourself."

Carolina's works are featured at [Splurge Art Gallery](#) in the Bucerias Art Walk Plaza. Carolina had a solo show on December 29th, 2009.