



## Malinda Prudhomme

Malinda Prudhomme is a talented Mixed Media and Portrait Artist that uses a variety of media to portray her passions. Her subject is the natural beauty found in our world. Whether she chooses to depict this with people, places, things, or abstract expression, her pieces always exude beauty and classic elegance.

Malinda's style is heavily influenced by the artists of the Renaissance period including Botticelli and Michelangelo. As they did in the past, her creative process begins with inspiration and is then executed with techniques that result in a high level of realism. She believes the time focused toward a piece and the immaculate detail achieved is one of the aspects that make her artwork so impressive.



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## What Malinda had to say to us...

In five bullet points or less, describe your typical day and/or routine.

- The first thing I do in the morning is address any e-mails I may have gotten overnight.
- I then log on to all of the social media platforms I use to check for messages, comments, or "likes". I would also do any updates/announcements I may need to make.
- I consider my online shop ([www.MalindaPrudhomme.Etsy.com](http://www.MalindaPrudhomme.Etsy.com)) and add any necessary items and renew listings. I also log into my online print shop ([malinda-prudhomme.artistsites.com](http://malinda-prudhomme.artistsites.com)) to add new prints and take part in the Fine Art America (FAA) online community.
- I then get into my main task of the day: it ranges from research and planning to drawing and painting. There are also the less fun days in which I have to update my website or blog.
- I keep track of my social media sites and e-mail throughout the day in case a client or fan would like to speak with me. My relationships with my clients and fans are very important to me.

When did you realize that your art was something you wanted to pursue?

I've been an artist all my life but growing up in a small northern Ontario city with a limited art community did not encourage me to pursue the arts as a career. I always felt as though being an artist was a second job or a hobby. Being a full time artist and actually making a living seemed like a dream. It wasn't until I decided to pursue a minor in the arts to strengthen my chances at landing a teaching job that I discovered I had true talent. Though many did not believe I would survive the work load, I completed my two year Visual Art minor in one year and was among the top in my class. Two of my artworks were even chosen to be exhibited in the graduating exhibition even though I was not completing the program. It was at this art event that one of my professors Eileen O'Connor told my parents and me that she believed I had what it took to have an artistic career. I was so moved, I had never considered an art career as it seemed impossible in my mind. I ended up winning the "People's Choice" award at that show; still one of the happiest moments of my life. I then began my career doing part time art work on top of my full time receptionist job and would later decide with my spouse that it was worth giving full time a go! And we haven't looked back since.

What keeps you motivated and inspired?

I wake up every morning thinking, "I can't wait to get to work." Being able to do what I love for a living is my motivation. Sadly, not many people can honestly say they love their job. I count every day I am a working artist a blessing and cherish every moment of it.

It's easy for me to stay inspired. I live in a great area, on the cusp of the Art & Design District in Parkdale, where people are creative and beautiful. Art galleries, vintage clothing, used bookstores, locally owned restaurants: this place is my bliss. I truly love Toronto.

What advice would you give to those chasing a dream?

Chasing dreams can be a tricky thing. I think it's always best to be realistic and see your product or service for what it truly is. Compare yourself to others in your field and honestly evaluate where you stand among them. I would then advise them to continuously try to improve. We can always improve no matter how skilled we are. But most importantly, you have to be willing to put all of your effort and passion into making it succeed. It can be discouraging at times but keep at it and be confident.

How do you stay ahead of the curve?

I'm not sure if I'm ahead of the curve just yet although I do feel I'm definitely on the right track. I would say that constantly creating work and involving my fans in it (i.e. progress photos, contests, voting, free give-aways, etc.) is what keeps me a little ahead. A lot of artists don't utilize free social media platforms and I definitely think this is a mistake. I'll admit it is INCREDIBLY time consuming, I get up every morning (yes, on weekends too) at 7am to take part in all of the sites and spend at least 2 hours just in the morning. I continuously use these sites throughout the day, even if I'm painting. I think as an artist it's important to make yourself known and not to wait for someone else to promote you.

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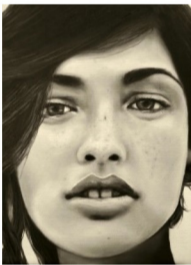


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What are some of your career highlights?

I cherish every moment of success in my art career. Whether it's getting into an exhibition or selling an original artwork. Here are some moments at the top of my list:

1. Still one of the happiest moments in my life is winning the "People's Choice" award as my very first exhibition in North Bay back in 2010. As I mentioned earlier, it was a graduating exhibition which I got into regardless of not being a graduate and it was a complete shock when I won the only award given at the show. When I received the e-mail from one of my professors I cried incredibly. It might seem insignificant to others but it was a lifetime dream come true for me.
2. Another major highlight occurred during my first year living in Toronto when I was working at a receptionist and doing artwork part time. I was given a huge commission for a large abstract piece which would be going into the lobby of Mitchell Sandham Inc., a local insurance brokerage. The owners even organized a little revealing with all of the staff members and then it was put up on the wall. What an incredible moment.
3. The last highlight I will list is an experience that I just recently had when I was invited to compete in ART BATTLE 66 here in Toronto. I had 20 mins to create a masterpiece going head to head with 15 other Toronto based artists. It was a really thrilling experience and so much fun.

What is the biggest obstacle you have encountered and how did you overcome it?

I think the biggest obstacle for most full time artists is making a living. I am incredibly lucky to have the most supportive partner a person could ask for. My fiancé, Darren Edward, is supporting the majority of our bills while I try to finance my business through its own profits. We don't live a glamorous life but then again we aren't glamorous people. We're quite content to spend time together at home enjoying a favourite T.V. show, discussing a novel we're reading, or enjoying a delicious meal. We find a lot of happiness in our simple life. 😊

What are some of your hobbies? What do you do to relax?

I am very passionate about travelling, although perhaps that's not a hobby, I've volunteered in Ecuador, travelled throughout Europe, and have a real connection with Italy and Greece.

I also love to read fantasy novels. My favourites are J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord Of The Rings*, Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* Series, and George R.R. Martin's *A Song Of Ice And Fire*. I have been reading fantasy books and novels since I was around 8 years old. I love escaping into a new world.

