

CAMILLE BANUCHI

ARTIST STATEMENT

I remember the day Andy Warhol died. I was watching the news, an impressionable young artist; Andy Rooney was doing one of his segments on Warhol and showed the famous can of Campbell's Tomato Soup and asked, "Is this Art?" This blew my mind at 9 years old and got the gears churning.

Little did I know that this question would follow me all of my days. What IS art? Is THIS art? WHAT is Contemporary Art? The questions remain...

But 'WHY' is Art?

I believe the making of images is a part of being human; the instinct of creativity has always been, for tens of thousands of years since before we could write. It was not done for an audience, it had no place for fancy words or receptions; art comes from a primal place, base visual expression.

Elmore Morgan Jr. stated in an interview that, "Art is an impractical activity by and large. It will not directly put food in your stomach, clothes on your back or protect you from your enemies..." Yet we go on and are still left asking "Why?"

The "why" for me is clear, making art is a survival skill; it gives me a place in the world and if I'm lucky, it will live on. I do not make art only for myself but for people, to give them something relatable, colorful; I create work that can be understood, things that everyone may keep in their pantries. This is what a "pop" sensibility is. Art of the people and for the people.

I strive to keep it real...