

# Livia Papiernik

(LONDON BASED ARTIST)

**Livia Describe your art in few words:**

WHIMSICAL, HONEST, TEXTURAL

**You Describe yourself as a storyteller. Can you tell me a little bit more about it? And there are many fairytales, folk stories, myths. Is there one that particularly stays with you?**

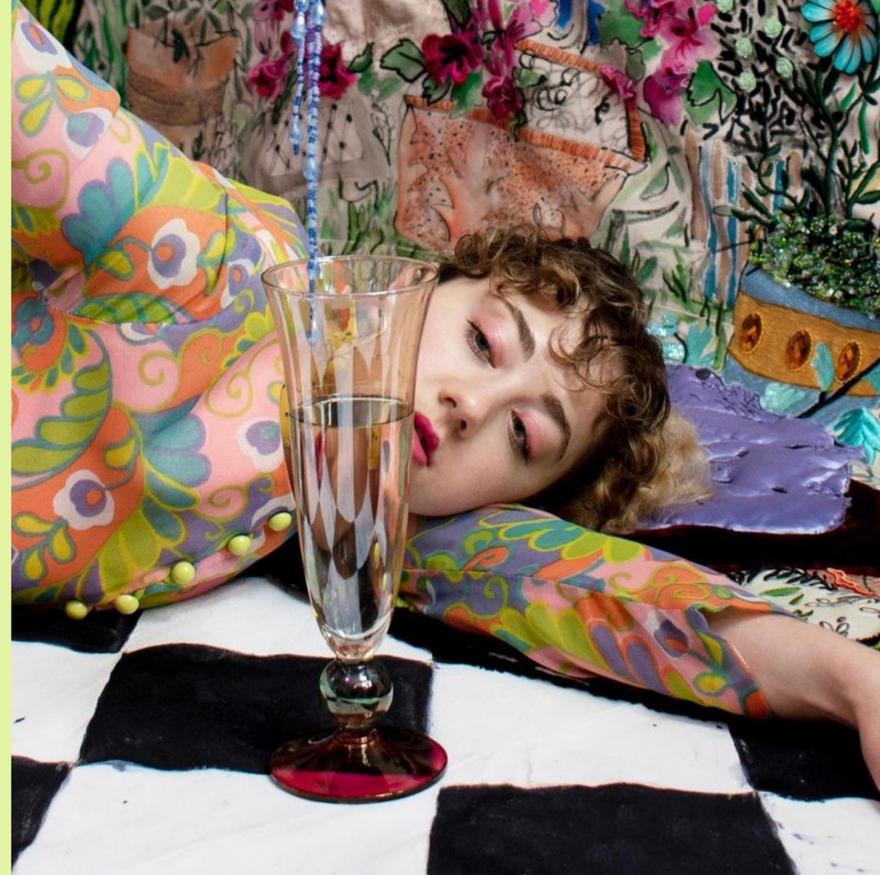
I LOVE HOW FAIRYTALES MYTHS AND STORIES ARE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION, AND HOW HIDDEN BEHIND NAIVE AND CHILDLIKE DEPICTIONS ARE EXTREMELY DEEP AND IMPORTANT LIFE STORIES. RECENTLY I READ ABOUT GABRIELLE-SUZANNE BARBOT DE VILLENEUVE. SHE WROTE ONE OF THE BEST ORIGINAL KNOWN VERSIONS OF LA BELLE ET LA BETE, (BEAUTY AND THE BEAST). IT IS INSPIRED A LOT BY HER OWN LIFE EXPERIENCE WITH MEN IN THE 18TH CENTURY. SHE WAS A VERY STRONG CHARACTER, A VERY FEARLESS AND EMPOWERED WOMAN WHO OWNED HER OWN SALON AND WROTE A LOT. READING HER STORY MADE ME SEE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST IN A VERY DIFFERENT LIGHT, AND HIGHLIGHTED WHY I LOVE THE CONTRAST WITHIN FAIRYTALES. OF COURSE, TODAY SHE'S NOT VERY WELL KNOWN, AND YET BEAUTY AND THE BEAST IS, ANOTHER CLEAR EXAMPLE OF THE SHADOWS WOMEN LIVE UNDER DURING AND AFTER THEIR LIVES.



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**Livia few years ago you have installed that amazing piece „I wish i was a flower.“ So I would like to ask, If you would be a flower which one would you be?**



I DON'T KNOW IF THIS ONE COUNTS AS IT'S TECHNICALLY A TREE, BUT I WOULD BE A WISTERIA TREE. THE PURPLE FLORAL BLOSSOMS ON THAT TREE ARE TRULY MAGICAL TO ME. MY GRANDMOTHER HAD ONE ON HER BALCONY GOING DOWN HER STAIRWAY TO THE GARDEN AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO MAGICAL TO ME. EVERY TIME I DRAW A FAIRYTALE PLACE, THE WISTERIA APPEARS IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER. VERY MAJESTIC, LONG-LASTING AND BEAUTIFUL, EVEN WHEN THE BLOSSOMS ARE GONE IN THE WINTER, THE VINES ARE INCREDIBLE.

**If you could have an afternoon tea with an artist in a magical rose garden, who would it be and why?**

MY INSTINCT IS TO INVITE DAVID HOCKNEY. HIS ARTWORKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SOME OF MY FAVOURITES AND I KNOW HOW MUCH HE ENJOYS NATURE. I'M THINKING ESPECIALLY OF HIS DRAWINGS IN NORMANDIE, WHICH LOOK AT NATURE WONDERFULLY AND WHIMSICALLY. SITTING IN A ROSE GARDEN WITH HIM WOULD FEEL PEACEFUL AND INSPIRING. I PICTURE DRAWING A PORTRAIT OF HIM SURROUNDED BY ROSE BUSHES, I LOVE THAT IDEA.

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## **What was your inspiration for the „happy girl?“**

THE HAPPY GIRL WAS INSPIRED BY THE FACES WE PUT OUT TO THE EXTERIOR WORLD, THE COPING MECHANISMS WE USE AND THE EFFECTS IT CAN HAVE ON OUR MENTAL HEALTH. I SUFFER FROM A LOT OF SOCIAL AND PERSONAL ANXIETY AND AT THE TIME OF MAKING HER, IT WAS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN OPTIMISTIC 'HAPPY GIRL' AND I THINK PEOPLE AROUND ME WERE SLIGHTLY TAKEN ABACK BY HOW DOWN I WAS, IT SEEMED SO OUT OF CHARACTER FOR THEM AND ME. MY POSITIVE ATTITUDE IS A QUALITY I LOVE ABOUT MYSELF BUT I'VE LEARNED SINCE THEN TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WRONG AND TO BE MORE OPEN ABOUT IT RATHER THAN SMILING THROUGH IT.

## **What's the story behind „trapped in a vase of roses?“**

TRAPPED IN A VASE OF ROSES FOLLOWS THE CONCEPT OF FEELING SMALL AND TRAPPED WITHIN OUR THOUGHTS. FROM THE GIRL'S PERSPECTIVE, SHE IS TURNING IN CIRCLES, ANXIOUS, OVERTHINKING, AND UNABLE TO SEE THE BEAUTY THAT IS AROUND HER. IT IS A PRISON OF HER OWN MAKING THAT SHE FEELS POWERLESS TO. TO OTHERS ON THE OUTSIDE, IT LOOKS LIKE A BEAUTIFUL WORLD, FRUITFUL AND BLOSSOMING, BUT THEY DON'T NOTICE THE FACT THAT BEHIND ALL THE ROMANTICISM OF THIS FAIRYTALE WORLD, THERE IS A GIRL TRAPPED, UNABLE TO GET HERSELF OUT. IT COMMENTS ON THE LACK OF ATTENTION FROM BOTH SIDES AND THE NEED FOR BOTH HERSELF AND OTHERS TO LOOK MORE CLOSELY AT SITUATIONS AND INTERACTIONS.