TrendsetterS
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At the annual Daffodil Ball, I noted a sleekly dressed Westmounter. She stood in chic simplicity in a blue ball gown near a sparkly white rabbit costume, flown in from the Las Vegas Cirque du Soleil, and a “Red Queen”

Heidi Spector
Photo: Robert J. Galbraith

Combining fashion, art...

with her 125 glasses-of-champagne skirt. It turns out that Heidi Spector’s sense of style is part of her DNA: she is an artist. As we chatted, she told me she is showing her art in New York. Her work reminded me of Frank Stella and Harald Schmitz-Schmelzer with their colourful stripes. However, her style of dressing is subdued whilst very much today.

Style
How would you describe your personal style?
Uninhibited and eclectic. I like to be original and ahead of the trends.

What is your favourite way of dressing?
I like to dress casually with an elegant flair. Getting dressed in the morning is another creative outlet for me aside from my art.

On weekends, what do you like to wear?
I have taken up cycling and bought some Campagnolo bike clothes from Vélos à Rabais situated in the same building as my studio.
When you are working on your art, what do you wear?
High heels always! My colleagues in the studio find it somewhat amusing. For the invitation to my exhibit at Holt Renfrew, I was photographed wearing high-heeled suede boots as a commentary on the way I dress when I paint.

The clothes I wear when painting are the same clothes I wear wandering around the streets of Montreal. Thankfully, I am rather neat when I paint.

Do you have favourite art or artists?
Besides myself?

Living

If you had a choice, where would you live in the world (money being no object)?
I used to live in New York while attending university. I look back on that time of my life as a great inspiration to the geometric minimalist art I am currently creating. The experiences I had there were so emancipating. The vibrancy of that city is still very appealing to me. However, I chose to move back to Montreal because of my love of family. My home is where my mother is and nothing can replace that. Now I have built my own family here and feel Montreal is a great place to raise kids, particularly Westmount.

What is your favourite flower?
One of the flowers from a Carmelo Blandino painting found at Galerie de Bellefeuille on Greene Ave.

If you could invite any artist from any era, who would it be?
Since I like to give dinner parties, I would invite several artists and individuals who broke new ground artistically. Personal favourites of mine are my art agent Mia Feroletto, who founded ARTWALK NY, artist Gene Davis for whom I have named two paintings and artists Agnes Martin, Guido Molinari, Frank Stella, Ellsworth Kelly and Sol LeWitt. As music is a tremendous influence on my art, I would certainly request DJ Tiësto to spin the tunes.

Who is your favourite designer?
Jean Paul Gaultier because we share a common passion for stripes in vibrant colours.

Fashion

You are often in New York City. Do women dress differently there?
Whether in New York or in Montreal, I find that women dress with taste and sophistication. These days comfort is also important and women don’t want to suffer for fashion.

What did you wear for your opening at Margaret Thatcher Projects in New York?
I wore a black dress to emphasize the contrast with my painting “High Roller,” which consists of 52 one-inch lines in which four shades of red are repeated 13 times – a reflection of a musical beat. I also wore black patent leather strappy high heels.

What do you think of today’s fashions?
I love all the vibrant coloured jeggings everyone seems to be spotted in but truthfully, I had them three years ago! Still love them though. Stylish, sexy and comfortable clothing is certainly pleasing to me.