



An Interview with “40 Under Forty” Exhibition Artist, Salvatore G. F. Crimi

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Columbus Centre, Villa Charities is currently presenting “40 Under Forty,” an exhibition of 40 artists under the age of forty. From faces to figures, still life to action painting, landscape to seascape, this broad exhibition at the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery gives the audience a look at varied themes and disciplines as diverse as the young artists themselves.

We recently interviewed one of the artists, Salvatore G. F. Crimi, about his artwork on display as part of the “40 Under Forty” exhibition and his favourite memories of the Columbus Centre.

Q: Introduce yourself. How long have you been an artist and how would you describe your style of art?

A: I am a Toronto born and raised multidisciplinary artist specializing in photography, artisan furniture, and painting. I have been a patron of the arts from birth, but I have honed in on my skills and continue to develop since my introductory courses in high school.

The main focus of my work is to connect myself and viewers to the greater forces alive and well around us. Concerning my photography, I want viewers to experience a "dream-like sensation" as if they are experiencing a dream where they can see two worlds of existence in one view, past and present. My style of art is one that draws on my experiences and passions as a person; I throw away rules and follow my gut. My style is unique to myself. I honour the practices of my peers but employ all tools at my disposal (internal/external) to deliver work which no one has seen before and evokes inspiration in them to build upon my work.

Q. What does it mean to you to be a part of the "40 Under Forty" exhibition at the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery?

A: After realizing that this show was curated by Flavio Belli, I consider this opportunity the biggest achievement of my career.

Q. Who have you been inspired by in your work as an artist?

A: I have been inspired by Laurent Dequick; he is a French multiple exposure photographer and seeing his work in person actually ‘sparked’ the idea for the Spark T.O. series. The photos currently on display in the “40 Under Forty” exhibition are part of that body of work.

Q: What does Italian culture mean to you as a first-generation Italian?

A: The culture means a lot to me when I think of the ideals and practices passed down from my elders, but it is not the world to me. At the end of the day, I consider myself a person of the world, carrying a title as solely Italian separates me from this ideal.

Q. October 10, 2020 was the 40th Anniversary of the Columbus Centre. Do you have a favourite memory or story about your experiences at the Columbus Centre?

A: I attended the day care at Columbus Centre growing up as a young boy. Every time I walked through that gallery with my mates, it brought immense joy to me as I felt I was walking into a different world.