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Photo by Chris Sanders

Portrait of the Artist: Leah Tinari

Every one of Leah Tinari's pieces is a celebration in itself. We caught up with the party girl to inquire about her methods, muses and memories.

What's your pleasure?

My brand new son Mars, my husband Marty, my family, my dear, dear friends, my days painting in the studio, cooking, New York City, traveling, cured meats, the ocean, eating things that come from the ocean, good gossip, 24 (the TV show), Johnny Depp (even when he wears bad outfits), fishing, and listening to daytime ABC soap operas. Oh yes—vodka martinis!

What's your poison?

Vodka martinis! High heels with red soles (if you are into shoes, you know who I am talking about), and my mom's homemade desserts.

What's a night out for you like?

A night out is some really good company, delicious food, and cocktails. And maybe dancing somewhere. I always have my camera on me, so I do tend to take a lot of photos—especially when the evening gets a bit rowdy. For some reason, when this happens some of my friends like to undress. Haha! That is always entertaining and gives me some hilarious material.

What are a few of your favorite spots in NYC?

Renew and Relax in the East Village for mani/pedis and massages, East Village Postal for mailings and shipping (oddly I find going there very therapeutic), Di Palo's meat and cheese store in Little Italy, the fish market in Chinatown, New York Central Art Supply, the Farmer's Market in Union Square, the parks over by the East River, the bar at Balthazar, and the bar at Babbo.

Can you explain your artistic process?

My bodies of work are documents of very recent events in my life. I want the work to serve as a visual library of my most recent travels and celebrations. If I was to revisit old photos, I think the work would have a sense of nostalgia, where I want the work to feel very contemporary.

http://www.genart.org/pulse/leah_tinari