

Get to Know the Artists in *Color*: Susana Arias

Several of the *Art in the Arboretum: Color* participants shared their personal histories and thoughts on art and being an artist by responding to the following questions.



What person, place, or event has been a primary influence on your work and why? I seem to be affected by all that surrounds me. It is like my art antennae are always on alert. I believe that for this reason my work tends to change from one series to the next. Things such as sentences in books, the way the earth corrodes around a rock, words said in different tones, gentle things, strong things.

What adjectives best describe you as an artist/person? Strong willed, passionate, generous.

What adjectives best describe your work? Primitive, contemporary, elegant.



If you had a personal philosophy/motto, what would it be? No hay mal que por bien no venga. I live by this; it means that when something bad happens, you must keep your eyes open to see the good that will come from it.

What might surprise someone about you/your work? Not many surprises. I work hard, and I try to promote the art of others as much as possible. Art is my life.

What are your thoughts on the Color Exhibit (an integration of the beauty of nature with the beauty of sculpture)? This is my baby. I love having the opportunity to give back to the community through these exhibitions of art in these amazing gardens.

Being the curator of *Art in the Arboretum: Color* has given me the opportunity to merge art and nature. This is the dormant season for the South Africa Gardens. As they rest, they

still have many beautiful surprises to share with us. In the ***Color*** exhibition, I have placed the sculptures so that you see the first sculpture, and then, as you look up, another peeks through the plants. This happens throughout the exhibit and makes you want to go see what's there. As you walk from one sculpture to the next, you get to appreciate and enjoy the wonders of nature: little flowers, bees, hummingbirds, and so many other gifts. I would call it "nature and art symbiosis."

View more of Arias' art at www.susanaarias.com and www.susanaariasarts.com