

# **The Corner of the Arts | September 2017**

**Elisa Pritzker interviews Pablo Shine English translation by E.R.L**

## **Exploring my roots from the visual and from the music**

Pablo Shine was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico in 1961. Pablo's work is currently represented in the area by the Wired Gallery in High Falls. His painting "Graceful Warrior" recently won first prize at the Woodstock Artist Association & Museum. Pablo teaches Drawing and Painting at Ulster Community College since 2000. His work is in private collections in the Hudson Valley area, New York, Los Angeles, London, Japan and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Website: [www.pabloshine.com](http://www.pabloshine.com)

### 1. When and where did you start your career in the visual arts?

I set the beginning of my career with my first group exhibition in 1978 at La Liga de Arte in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, my birthplace. My Father, James G. Shine was my first teacher. He founded the "Workshop 78". This organization was dedicated to recruiting young talent and promoting it. The form of promotion was to obtain exhibitions for the group (Workshop 78) in galleries and museums of the island. He gave me the great opportunity to exhibit my work with the group and to teach drawing and painting in the school we founded together.

### 2. Do your Puerto Rican roots influence your art?

My art, like that of other artists, has undergone many changes in 37 years of activity. For a decade, I have felt the need to return to my roots. This return was driven by my return to the Afro-Antillean percussion. Another of my passions that started in my teens. This return to the percussion of African roots leads me to explore my African roots that are very vigorous in Puerto Rico. These roots are manifested through the music, customs, food and spirituality that the Africans brought to the island during the forced colonization by Spain.

### 3. Tell me about your work and the means you use to achieve it?

My present work explores, in part, the religion / spirituality of African roots on the island. I mean, Santería (originally, Lucumi from Nigeria). One of the deities in this religion is Obatala. One of its symbols is the elephant. In part of my recent work I have developed a series of paintings as a devotional object and spiritual image within the religious sphere of Santeria. From another point of view, I also explore the folklore of African origin on the island through Bomb dance. An example of this subject is "Majestad Negra" (homage to Luis Pales Matos). The Bomba dancer wears the emblematic colors of Chango (red and white) another main deity in Santeria. The painting is dedicated to the Puerto Rican poet, Luis Pales Matos, who dedicated part of his work to the African presence on the island.

### 4. Do you teach drawing and painting at SUNY Ulster, how do you coordinate your time between teaching and your studio?

My position as a master of painting and drawing at Ulster Community College is part time. I divide the rest of my time between my art projects in my studio and also music. I am a member of Future 350 Nu Bossa. A band of musicians located in the Kingston and Woodstock area. I consider the promotion and sale of my art part of my craft as a painter. I also perform interior and exterior painting work for homes in the area where I live. Life as an artist presents balancing challenges like those of a juggler.

5. What project (s) do you have in the near future?

I have an individual exhibit at "The Storefront Gallery" on Broadway # 93 Kingston N.Y. 12401 in November, [www.thestorefrontgallery.com](http://www.thestorefrontgallery.com)

I am developing a series of paintings for this exhibition. And at the end of August the first album of Future 350 Nu Bossa will come out to the public. Our music is a fusion of Bossa Nova and different Latin musical influences. The songs are original compositions by band director Stephen Jonhson. He sings and plays acoustic guitar. The other members of the band are: Michael Colletti in Contra bass, Peter Wexler in keyboard and accordion, Ruperto Ifil in drums and this server in congas and percussion.

Elisa Pritzker, is an artist and independent curator. His column "The Corner of the Arts" is currently published in La Voz and ABClatino Magazine / [www.elisapritzker.com](http://www.elisapritzker.com)