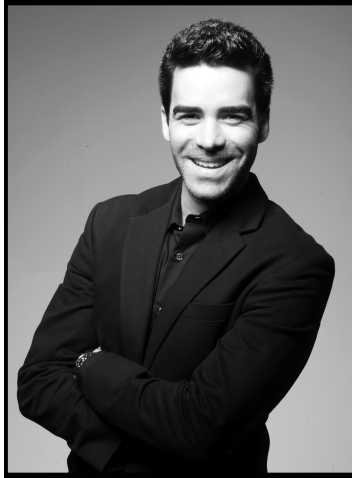


CARLOS II OCASIO DÍAZ

**Artist Statement**



I have found a parallel universe that matches the plasticity, velocity, and possibilities of my creativity: the computer. Using today's most powerful tool, second only to the human brain, I am able to transform the age-old limited dynamic of the "brush and canvas", and bring to life a new kind of art form: digital compositions. These New Media expressions hold the power to challenge and reinterpret traditional artistic conceptions.

Unlike many of the most important creative inventions, the camera has undergone a major transformation. Safe from extinction for now, it has been reintegrated into modern life. Because of this, I use it as the first step to artistically reinterpret the world around me. This is crucial. If in my compositions you see the Giza Pyramids, it means that I traveled to Egypt and photographed them. When you see Cellini's Perseo, know that I visited Florence and, in the Piazza della Signoria (under the Loggia dei Lanzi), took a picture of the bronze statue.

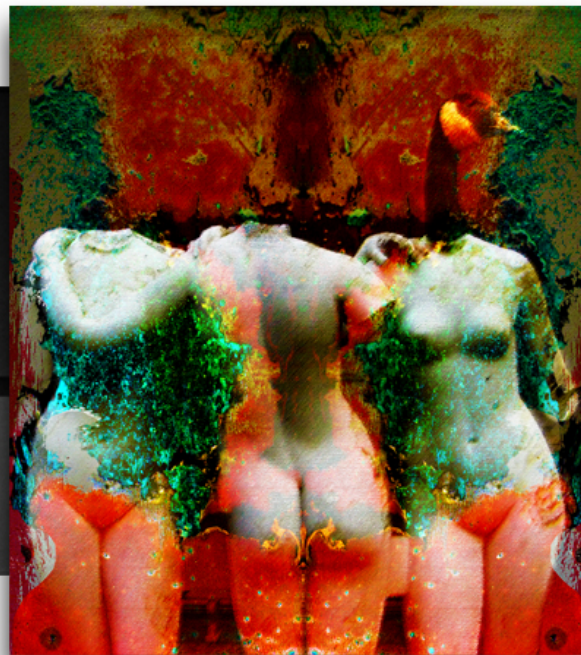
The inspiration behind the images I capture is almost always twofold. It can be directed by the stories and novels I create - the characters I bring to life, the ambiance in which the conflicts develop, the kaleidoscopic emotions brought by the intensity of the passages - and even by the very words that shape my writings, for I am also a published author. Or the inspiration can be directed by the commercial concept put forth by the project developer, interior designer, decorator, or architect willing to hire me.

I am fascinated by this alternate side of my craft, because it challenges me and at the same time presents another opportunity for me to continue developing the most variable principle about my character: the capacity to reinvent myself, to adapt to uncharted territories, to survive while reinterpreting and reintegrating old paradigms with new ones. To work successfully with another artist in the construction or renovation of a hotel, restaurant, bar, home or office, my creativity needs to coexist interconnected with other talents, with other sets of ideas, concepts, personal and historical backgrounds, etc... Each time this harmonizing or synchronizing occurs, magic happens - all the people involved grow as human beings and as artists.

This means that my inspiration is very customizable indeed. And, because of the digital nature of my creations, not only can I tailor my art in subject matter, but also in size. It can be printed in various proportions such as in two or three panels, or whatever size is necessary to reach a monumental scale that is typical for art exhibited in mansions, hotels, restaurants, offices, or any other commercial or hospitality space. Depending on the purpose and on the budget for each project, the art can be printed not only on canvas, but also on crystal, wood, metal, and other

materials. Or it doesn't have to be printed at all. Rather, it can be projected in any type of monitor or screen.

After capturing the images - sometimes in distant places such as Cairo, Reykjavik, or St. Petersburg in Russia - the second step in the creative process is digital manipulation. Assisted by the versatility of one of the most advanced computer programs available today, I brew these complex images with layers upon layers of rich colors. Like a delicious concoction in need of one last hint of spice, I add complimentary pictures for texture, and sometimes even phrases taken from my published works - and mix and mix and mix - until it morphs into an irresistibly innovative conception.



This combination of photography and digital manipulation is undeniably the Ultimate Artistic Expression which serves as a means of creative seduction on any wall, in any space. It is also an investment, the perfect asset in agreement with the future for generations to come.

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