

The new series by Bali-based artist, Joanna Cutri, is an old idea that needed to be manifested. After a tragic event, which occurred last May, it became apparent to her that she finally had to create a collaboration of art mediums. “It was a cathartic process, she reveals. “Not only did I incorporate contemporary sculptures as a tribute and homage, but I also used the work of various late, great master sculptors that I found particularly moving.”

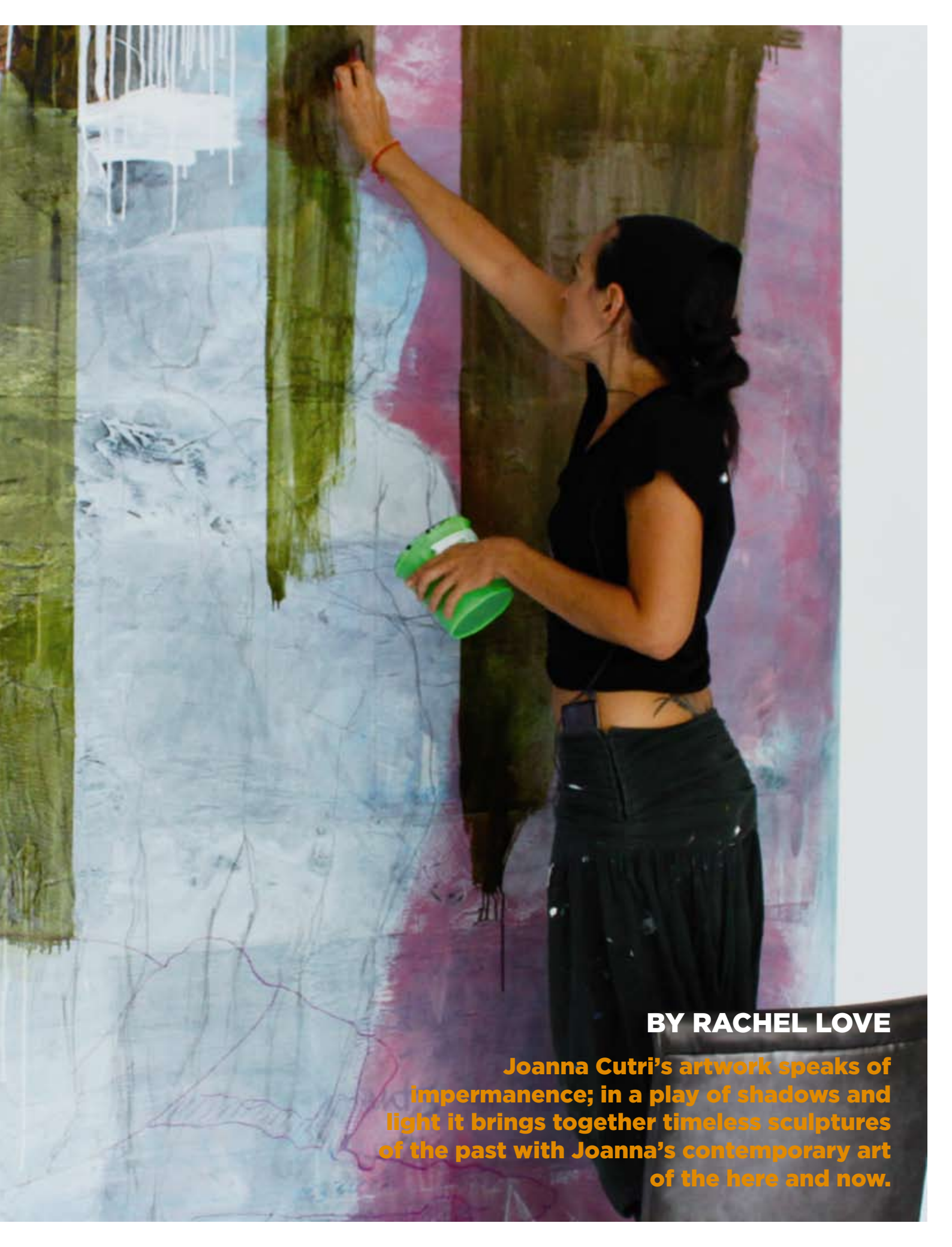
Joanna was exposed to art from a very early age and for as long as she can remember, she has loved to paint and draw. “It was easily accessible and all around me,” she explains. She says she was born an artist, “It’s something I had to do, I think if it were up to me, I would

have chosen an easier, more predictable career, but you can’t slap God in the face, if art were so easy then everyone would be doing it, so I feel very lucky to have been put on this path, this journey, in this lifetime. It’s definitely my calling and my purpose. I don’t think it was up to me. I believe I was an artist many lifetimes ago.”

Joanna describes herself as a “global citizen”; both her parents are from Rosario, Argentina but of Italian descent. She was born in Pasadena, California, and then lived in Argentina for a few years before her family moved back to California. She attended the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, on the campus of the California State University of LA. “It was the equivalent to the show ‘Fame’

A BEAUTY OF THINGS IMPERFECT,
IMPERMANENT AND INCOMPLETE

WABLI
SABLI...



BY RACHEL LOVE

Joanna Cutri's artwork speaks of impermanence; in a play of shadows and light it brings together timeless sculptures of the past with Joanna's contemporary art of the here and now.



in NYC. I was in the visual arts department with some of the most talented and ambitious people I've ever met, and my teachers were all well-known, successful LA artists. It was an amazing experience and an absolute privilege. University paled in comparison after that!" After LACHSA, Joanna went to the Cleveland Institute of Art, which had wonderful facilities, "Our studios were in an old Ford automobile factory so we could literally drive our cars into the elevator, which meant there was no limit to the size of our artwork. Being a Southern Californian girl wasn't a likely match for the weather in Cleveland and I only lasted at CIA for a year and half before running off to Italy. I studied painting, printmaking and art history in Cortona, which is a magical Tuscan

hill town full of history and romance. I loved living there; it was the best experience ever! The Cortona Study Abroad Programme was through the University of Georgia in Athens, USA, so I ended up doing my last year in Athens to receive my Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting and drawing, with a minor in art history. Five days after graduation I moved back to Italy, this time to Milano.

The artist's unique style blends oil, acrylic, graphite, ink and collage to create numerous layers of colour, texture, imagery and contoured forms, replete with subtle tonal transitions of hue. It comes as no surprise that she has a passion for the Dada movement; she maintains, "I love the text, the collage and

Above left: 'Final Stance'

Above right: 'Carolyn'

Bottom right: 'Remembrance'



Classic sculptures are honoured in contemporary style.

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“EVERY DAY,
EVEN NOW,
I’M STILL
TAKEN BY THE
OFFERINGS
THAT I SEE ALL
OVER BALI. I
LOVE THEM.
I LOVE THE
HUGE ARTISTIC

Left: ‘Waking up’

Below: ‘Sisters’



the spontaneity,” while her artwork displays the insatiable appetite for invention that was common to all the Dadaists. Asked what else she is inspired by, Joanna replies, “Nature for sure, and even more so, the effects of time... like, for example, an aged wall that has seen many seasons, rust coming through paint, or faded tiles. Through time, all these things change and morph into different colours, patterns and shapes. It’s unpredictable and it’s beautiful. It’s all left to chance and you just don’t know how it’s all going to come out.

Music inspires me as well as the written word – literature and poetry, and travel is a huge inspiration. I relish finding new, moving, compelling art in places I never thought I would, such as the old lacquer paintings in

Hanoi, which just blew me away, as well as the diverse art in Zafaat, Israel.”

Joanna has lived in Bali for five and a half years, and admits she is very much influenced by the creativity and artistic heritage of Bali. “Every day, even now, I’m still taken by the offerings that I see all over Bali. I love them. I love the huge artistic efforts that the Balinese go through to support their ceremonies, from the towers of fruit, to the bamboo ‘penjor’ poles that they create for their Galungan festival. It’s great to be in an environment where art is part of an everyday experience.” **FRV**

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