Hello! You are listening to Curator on the Go Podcast! Today I have the pleasure of speaking to California based artist, photographer, musician, and author Robbie Kaye.

Robbie is a classically trained pianist who studied jazz and played rock and roll and later turned to photography looking for visual melodies. Drawn to finding beauty in unexpected places, Robbie works to intrigue, inspire, and evoke a reaction from the viewer and sees her photography as a way to contribute beauty, create change and give exposure to societal issues. Robbie also creates fine art and her artwork is inspired by the unpredictability and intensity of the sea and the playfulness, constancy, and beauty of nature. She currently works with resin, acrylic paint, and ink.

Robbie is originally from New York, has lived in Portland, OR and now resides in California with her husband and their dog, Luna. Robbie’s work is currently represented by The [Brittany Davis Gallery](https://brittanydavisgallery.com/) in Ojai, CA. Her work has been exhibited internationally in Boston, Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles, London, and Spain. Robbie’s work has been featured in Marie Claire, Italy, [Yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com/beauty/senior-class-the-beauty-of-older-women-95314277228.html),  Linda, More and Allure Magazines among others.

***Curator on the Go:*** Hi Robbie, thank you so much for joining me today. I am so excited to learn more about your unique story. Welcome!

***Robbie:*** Thank you! I am so happy to be here!

***Curator on the Go:*** Thank you! So, going back in time, you studied jazz and played rock and roll before you turned to photography and painting. Tell us a little bit about your music career and why you decided to transition into fine art industry.

***Robbie:*** I actually transitioned into fine art through writing. I played music for 25 years and I was about to start recording my second CD in Portland, OR. When I set down to talk to Tim, the co-producer, I started crying and told him that I don’t want to do it anymore. It has been hard as I’ve spent so many years trying to “make it,” and he encouraged me to take a break and see what unfolds. I encored into a writing class and just started writing. I after decided to go back to school and get a degree in English. I thought I have been done with music until one day when I moved to Santa Cruz, I woke up and started writing songs. I wrote 6 or 7 songs, and then my friend came to record the songs on my piano. Next I moved to Los Angeles and continued studying and working at USC. I was given the opportunity by the Dean of Admissions to photograph the grounds, the architecture, and the landscape at the college. I had the opportunity to create the photographs for the offices and the student union – it was an amazing opportunity that they’ve given me.

***Curator on the Go:*** I wanted to mention that your photography practice is so diverse. Your projects focused on women empowerment, nature, commentary on age and beauty among others. What is your favorite one?

***Robbie:*** It’s a tie between the landscapes, usually mountains that really thrill me, and there is also a great feeling I get when I do portraiture – usually older women to capture their beauty and their power.

***Curator on the Go:*** Tell us about your latest project and passion– resin art. What feelings did you have when you made your first piece?

***Robbie:*** Well,I’ve mentioned that I have a good friend and colleague who suggested that I should try it. She told me to try resin on aluminum and go big. I think the timing was right and she was very supportive. So, I bought some aluminum and resin. It was so much fun! I loved it! I loved the unpredictability of it all. It was a great diversion from photography, and the more I did it – the more I noticed that everything that I have been photographic started to translated into the aluminum.

***Curator on the Go:*** How does your creative day look like?

***Robbie:*** It starts very early. I make a cup of coffee or tea and I go out to my day bed where I light a candle or an incense. I start the day listening to the birds. I meditate and use some other practices that are meditative. Then I put on my work cloth that are just cloths that I wear before I get paint on them. I go to my studio and put either a podcast or a book on audio that’s inspirational, or classical music, or rock music from the 70s – whatever will be the perfect background for me to do some creating. I mix the resin, choose the colors… sometimes before I get out of bed I will have a vision, an image of what I want to create and I go into the studio and I do something completely different.

***Curator on the Go:*** How do you know when a piece or project is finished and needs no additional work?

***Robbie:*** It’s a good question! I can redo my work over and over. That’s a skill I am still learning – when to leave it alone and when to keep going. Paintings can stay unfinished for a month as I don’t know what to do to them yet. Others can be finished and I look at them and they are not. It’s an ongoing process and it’s important to stay open. There are also times when I completely ruin the piece and it goes into a backyard of artwork.

***Curator on the Go:*** What do you do to keep yourself motivated and interested in your work?

***Robbie:*** I try to go walking in nature. I try to travel – I love road trips, going out and being around beauty and people. I think that that is what fuels the gas tank of creativity for me. It clears my head and helps me stop overthinking things. Seeing other people’s work in museums. All of those things – it’s the intake of what we see that gets absorb and then spills out from our own interpretation of that.

***Curator on the Go:*** As a creative individual, do you believe that you perceive the world differently from other people?

***Robbie:*** No, I don’t think I perceive the world differently. I think that we all have the capability of taking what we see in the world and creating something whatever that is. In anything that we do – we generate what we see in the way that speaks to us. Photographers see light different from who hasn’t studied it. Same with music! If you have experience – you might see it different but the intake is the same. It’s what we do with it that’s different!

***Curator on the Go:*** For sure! Do you critique your own work?

***Robbie:*** Of course! What artist doesn’t critic their work? I am probably my toughest critic but also most linier critic! I do critique my work especially working with resin as it’s not like a photograph that actually is in my archive (on my computer or on a print). Because the artwork is around ne all the time in the studio – I am constantly looking at it seeing what I would like to embellish or fix.

***Curator on the Go:*** One of a cool project I found on your website is where you are painting with re-purposed motorcycle tires. What’s the story behind this unique project?

***Robbie:*** The story is this – I don’t have any one thing that happen to inspire me other than I love motorcycles and going on rides on motorcycles. I love the freedom of being on the back of the motorcycle and watching nature go by. I went to Harley Davidson and asked if I can have some tires that they are throwing out. I started painting on canvas and see what literal things I can create with tires. I painted and my hands got tired, my friend suggested that I should try resin. I first used the motorcycle tires on the aluminum with paint and then I put resin on top of it. It was a big transition for me to move from using motorcycle tire to a paint brush because of my own insecurities artistically. But I enjoyed transmitting the adventures those tires go through into a canvas or aluminum.

***Curator on the Go:*** I spent some time on your website and was impressed on the number of blog posts you have. I don’t know the exact number but you have 53 pages of amazing written blogs. Tell me more about your posts and why you use this platform to share your story?

***Robbie:*** There are a couple of reasons why I use this platform. One, is that I have a desire to inspire. I became a song writer as I was inspired by other people’s words and they helped me to go through tough times. So, I wanted to do the same. I started writing songs and I enjoy writing blog posts as I enjoy sharing the experience and hopefully create something that is relatable – so people can relate and don’t feel alone. Another reason is to share what I am working on and to promote my work and offer specials to people who had taken the time to sign on with me.

***Curator on the Go:*** Aside from the website, what other platforms you use to promote your art?

***Robbie:*** Well, I referred to myself as a social media hore …. No. Which is funny as up until recently I had love and hate relationship with social media. But now I am really loving it because I work with you and I am learning how to do it and learning the fundamentals. It feels good and authentic. You are really helping me to allow myself to reveal who I am and what I do instead of trying too hard. So, the platforms I am on are Instagram and Facebook and Linkedin. I started out in Twitter in 2009 when I was working with Beauty and Wisdom. That was a great experience because I reached a lot of people with work that is very important to me. People reached out to me inviting me to do interviews. It opened up so many opportunities.

***Curator on the Go:*** Why do you share your professional as well as personal life on Instagram?

***Robbie:*** I share my personal life because I think it’s important – so my audience have a connection to what I am creating. Hopefully my intent is to give it some depth. The work that I am sharing – where it comes inside of me. That there is a wholeness about it. It’s not just a piece of art – it’s a piece of art created by me.

***Curator on the Go:*** One hundred percent! I know you are represented by The [Brittany Davis Gallery](https://brittanydavisgallery.com/). Did you reach out to them or they discovered you and invited to be part of their gallery?

***Robbie:*** I guess about 4 years ago, I reached out to Britney Davis. She was referred to me by a friend who was occupying a studio space near her. I reached out to her as she was doing a show on abstracts. I’ve submitted my work that I’ve created with the tires and she chose two. This was her gallery called “beyond the lines.” I was really excited as I got to be at that show. A year later, she posted something on Facebook that she was starting a new gallery and was interested in artists. I reached out again and told her what I was working on. She wanted to work with me and I had a great experience. There is a show every month a I get to show my works as a member of that gallery.

***Curator on the Go:*** Does the gallery has an exclusive right to sell your works or you are also selling on your own?

***Robbie:*** No, it’s not an exclusive contract.

**Curator on the Go:**Do you sell prints or only originals and why?

***Robbie:*** I am beginning to offer prints of my original work because not everyone has a lot of wall space or money to buy. But they can have a print, frame it and enjoy as well.

***Curator on the Go:*** I also know your works will be exhibited at Palm Springs Art Fair in February as part of [Brittany Davis Gallery](https://brittanydavisgallery.com/)’s collection. Have you been exhibited at fair before and how you are preparing for it?

***Robbie:*** This will be my first art fair and I am so excited! I’ve ordered quite a few pieces of materials to work on. I am preparing by creating new work. Not that I ever feel like that I need to have something like that to create – it’s just and added inspiration. I am excited about what is coming out and can’t wait to share it at Palm Springs in February!

***Curator on the Go:*** Your works have been featured in numerous magazines. How did you get those publicity opportunities?

***Robbie:*** For different work, it has been a different way of getting my work published. When I was a photographer, it got published because I worked for people who had affiliations with magazines so they chose my work. But, for beauty and wisdom, I was contacted by the magazines to publish my work. It didn’t hurt to have articles with yahoo.com which gave me great exposure. People from all over the world would see my work and would say if they can publish my work in a magazine. There are also magazines that didn’t ask for permission in other counties but that happens. I will be contacting other publications with my new work to see if they might want to publish it.

**Curator on the Go:** What artists - either contemporary or from history - have had an impact on you and your art practice?

***Robbie:*** I think Georgia O'Keeffe has been a great inspiration for me. I always loved her work and was intrigued by her as an artist and the work she created. And it’s really ironic that I’ve never liked impressionism. I am not a big fan of Monee but I ended up creating it. With the motorcycle tires this is what it turned into. Now I’ve gone back and I have a strong appreciation for his work. Photographically, I have so many. Cindy Sherman, Helen Levitt….just so many amazing photographers and artists out there that I feel have made a difference in what I make today.

***Curator on the Go:*** I also ask every podcast guest about personal branding. Do you believe that artists need a brand or see themselves as creative entrepreneurs to be successful?

***Robbie:*** Absolutely! I absolutely think that artists need to educate themselves in that way in becoming the brand and in promoting themselves. It’s the way it is now. You can’t wait for somebody to promote you! You have to get out and learn those skills. It’s very important to know and have the basic tools of how to do it!

***Curator on the Go:*** What do you like and dislike about the art world?

***Robbie:*** What I like about the art world is that it is really varied. There is technology, there are many venues to see it, to experience it, and also to share it. It provides beauty in the world that is naughty. There is not much that I don’t like about the art world. I hear some horror stories. Maybe there is a stigma with some things in the art world. I think that we can find the places that resonate with us where we want to be in the art world. Maybe I just don’t know much about the art world yet to have dislikes about it.

***Curator on the Go:*** If you only had 24 hours to live, how would you spend your day?

***Robbie:*** I think I would call everybody that I love and just make sure that they know that I love them. I would make a live video or something and talk about what a great life I’ve had and inspire people to live fully. I might go to NY and have some pizza. I might eat whatever I want, do something fun with my husband and my dog– go for a hike, go to the ocean.

***Curator on the Go:*** What is your dream project and/or who is your dream client?

***Robbie:*** A dream project would be creating a really large resin piece for a home or yacht. My ideal client would be somebody I can sit with and talk about the things that move them and what they want to see in the piece that I would create for them.

***Curator on the Go:*** what one piece of advice would you give to emerging artists?

***Robbie:*** Commit to what you are doing - do it with constancy. Don’t compare yourself to other people – don’t feel like you are missing on something because you are where you are right now.

***Curator on the Go:*** Do you have any exciting projects, collaborations or exhibitions coming up that you'd like to share?

***Robbie:*** I do – I have a Black Friday Promotion going on right now. I am so excited about it. I am creating 12 x 12 mini resin pieces that people can frame and use. I am only doing a limited edition of 15.

***Curator on the Go:*** Where my listeners can find you online?

***Robbie:***

<https://www.robbiekaye.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/robbiekaye/>

<https://www.facebook.com/robbiekayestudio/>