

VONBROTA was born in Italy in 1982. After graduating in Fine Art in Italy in 2007, she moved to London to study Sound Design and Music Technology. Her work includes the use of painting, collage and sound. Vonbrotta currently lives and works in London.

<http://irinavonbrotta.com/>

Visual Art

Artist's Statement

Vonbrotta



MY WORK IS PRIMARILY BASED ON PAINTING, WHICH INCORPORATES COLLAGE. I am interested in using image cut-ups as evidence of the reality and age we live in. By using fragments of reality – found images – I create uneasy scenarios, and dystopian narratives, where real images and visionary realms mix. In my paintings I create scenes where tragedy can be perceived by the resonances between violent brush strokes, colour, scratches on the canvas and different speeds of painterly movement. My compositions are built on the juxtaposition of visual layers and depths, where the overall composition both hides and reveals details of a narrative that upon first impression appears indecipherable.

I am interested in reflecting on violence as the ultimate feature of mankind that transcends time and cultures. In a world where strife, competition and overproduction fuel the vertigo of over-stimulation, the appropriation and regurgitation of images, which is implied in the collage practice, becomes a way of breaking down the allure of the spectacular image, re-coding the world of the images presented to us by deconstruction and recombination. This process takes place through the frenetic work of collection, cutting, manipulating and re-assembling of paper cut-ups, where the sum of disparate parts generates a multilayered vision that looks at the intrinsic viciousness of mankind.

As we are insatiable voyeurs watching and enjoying violence happen elsewhere, whether a live bullfighting spectacle or war on TV, the chaotic scenes that unravel across my work reflect on the human voracity for self-celebration and destruction. In my work, contemporary images are juxtaposed with elements that reference old European painting, such as Tintoretto's compositions or Paolo Uccello's battles, in a dialogue that reflects on the timeless darkness of humanity where images of violence are mixed with laughter, orgies, and nonsense, in a parody of the pathetic, hilarious, tragic and the epic at the same time. A journey of humanity through history and time.



Vonbrota, *On the Deathbed: Ostentation* (detail) 2010. Collage, acrylic and oil painting on canvas.



Vonbrota, *To the new Blood* (detail) 2013. Collage, acrylic, water-based felt pens on canvas.



Vonbrota, *It is only by Libido alone that the Cosmos survives* (detail) 2011. Collage, acrylic and oil painting on canvas.