



Finding the Strength Within

A chat with sensual artist Monique van Doorn

Now a survivor, Monique wishes for other women to free themselves from all that is holding them back by baring it all. Monique uses charcoal and chalk to create sensual paintings of women. Her goal is for women to feel comfortable in their own skin and to boost their confidence level. "I want to show women that they are way more beautiful than they could have ever imagined," says Monique.

Art Process

Monique's art process takes place in several phases. It starts with a sensual photoshoot. If you so choose, you can pay her for the session and have yourself a roster beautifully photographed photos. Or you can move on to phase two, which is to create an charcoal painting based on the photos. "My sketches are very realistic and working with charcoal is a long process so it can take up to 40 hours to finish a painting. This is why I have the photoshoot beforehand," explains Monique. For the women who partake in this process, it's all about sensuality and exciting their senses.

Feedback from women

Monique is well sought after, so much so former models are demanding a repeat. The experience is an addictive one it would seem. "They keep coming back for more," says Monique. "The photoshoot is an euphoric experience on its own, but when they see themselves back after I sketch them, their minds are completely blown, especially when I tell them the painting has been sold." The beauty of Monique's work is that you never know where the painting may end up. One of them could very well be hanging on board of an Emirati prince's yacht."

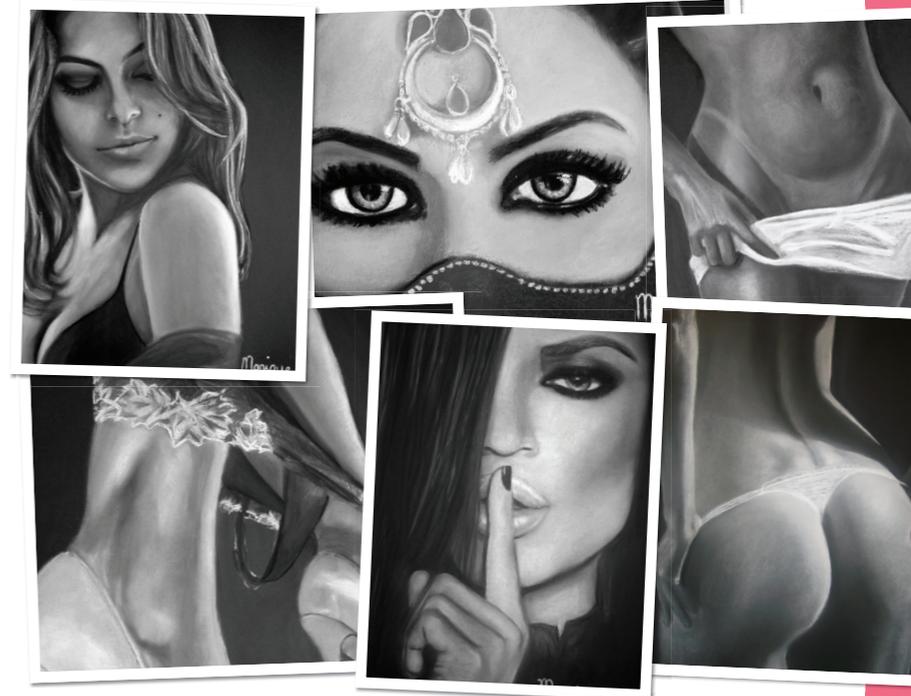
The power of being a woman

Monique is passionate about giving women a platform to move past their shame and to build their self-esteem. "I want to show women how beautiful they are. We should feed off our own strength to take on the world," explains Monique who wishes for women to exude confidence and not be afraid of their own success.

"Freedom can only be achieved once you conquer your fear. My goal is to pull women across this line." According to Monique, who has lived all over the world, this fear is a universal thing that women suffer from. Interestingly though, she believes that women in Curaçao are highly emancipated compared to other places in the world. "Look at the many women in top positions in the local corporate market."

Breast Cancer Stepping Stone

Six years ago, Monique discovered a lump atop of her right breast.



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She thought it was a severe case of muscle knots, however, it turned out to be a 6 cm tumor that was very aggressive and deadly. She opted for treatment in the U.S. After 12 chemotherapy sessions the tumor shrunk tremendously and doctors were able to operate it.

Luckily it didn't metastasize and Monique has been cancer free for the past six years. When it comes to discovering her art, timing was everything for Monique. "I started out sketching as part of my therapy during my cancer treatments," explains the artist. A friend of mine

took me to a class at Landhuis Bloemhof where we had to sketch a naked woman. As it turned out, I was able to sketch her on paper! I never knew I had this artistry in me."

This was the beginning of a new career. "I was triggered that there was a naked woman in that class. I wanted to show women how beautiful they are. I want my work to reflect that sensuality can help keep things sweet and that it's ok to be yourself. To learn more about Monique and her beautiful work visit her websites: www.sensualartbymonique.com www.littlesecretbymonique.com

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