Tribe One Artist Statement

“Solo Los Muertos Saben La Verdad!” (Only the Dead Know the Truth).  As a Latino with Mexican and Puerto Rican descent, this statement encompasses the spirit of my art. Death for Latinos is celebrated and embraced, we have an intimate relationship with death. This is commonly expressed using the symbolism of the “Calavera” or “Sugar Skull”, which is one of the recurring themes in much of my work.

Born in East Los Angeles and raised in California’s San Fernando Valley, I first took notice of graffiti at the age of twelve. At that time, I was unaware I had a passion for typography or graffiti art, but the letterforms I had seen throughout the city became a constant vision in my head. I started writing graffiti on the streets of the San Fernando Valley, writing my “tag” on buses, bus stop benches, grocery store shopping carts, and stop signs throughout the city. Through graffiti I have been able to create mixed media filled with intense color and vibrant patterns that are reflective of my heritage and culture.

My collection is a mixture of my heritage, graffiti culture and comic art style of the 1990s. I paint my Calaveras on canvas, using contrasting as well as complementary colors by way of both enamel spray paint and acrylic brush paints or soft pastels. Using tie wire, I create three dimensional sculptures of life size Calaveras. These Calaveras represent a perspective of the unknown, for me they are an emblem of what death may or may not be, and a glimpse for my viewer into what I envision it would be like for skull and bones to come back to life.