

Sol

Artist

Dictionary Nerd

Nomadic Captain

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“I grew up in a small village in the mountains where I felt very isolated because I was basically the only artist there and I needed to go find my tribe. As soon as my feet hit Brooklyn soil, I knew that this is the place where I’m going to be, this is where I’m going to plant my flag, because this is where I feel I belong.”

“As a child, I found the book Sinbad the Sailor from the series Arabian Nights in my father’s library, and it became my guiding star. I wanted a life like that. I wanted to be sailing the seven seas and exploring the entire world. Now I have a ship where I live. I am the captain of Mothership NYC, an artist community with a combined live, work and presentation space. The crew consists of three permanent officers and two open spaces for visiting international artists who come to New York City to work on a project.”

“Shakespeare asks, ‘What is the city, but the people?’ For me New York’s main attraction is the immensely talented and fascinating people. A lot of people with a drive and a will to accomplish something are drawn to the bright lights of New York City.”

“To stay the course of an artist in New York, you need three things. First, a real burning desire to share your story with the world. Second, you need a significant amount of grit and be able to stomach lots of humble

pie, because this is not an easy business. You can’t expect to come out of school and have the world applaud you from the get-go. It doesn’t work like that. You need to make a living, so you have to be prepared to spend time doing other things to get by until your career takes off. Finally, you need luck. The right people need to see your work and take an interest in it.”

“I have the cliché ‘New York artist studio.’ For many years I struggled, simply to have a tiny, little corner where I could create my work. Now suddenly, I have a whole ballroom. I have so much space that I can dance around by myself at night. Every day of my life I say thank you to the universe for this great gift.”

“Greenpoint has become quite gentrified in my 19 years in this neighborhood. It’s like the colonialists pushing the creative tribe further and further into the wilderness. That’s why I call my studio the Last Frontier: We’re all the way on the water’s edge on that very last strip of industrial Brooklyn that’s still left.”

Q&A

“If New York was a painting, it would definitely be very colorful, and it would have bold, expressive strokes. It would not be shy in any way. It would be in your face and it would be loud.”

What neighborhood do you live in?
Greenpoint.

Best thing about living there?
We are bordered by water on two sides, there is an occasional whiff of ocean in the air and you can hear the seagulls.

Favorite neighborhood in NYC?
Greenpoint.

Favorite street to stroll?
While I love people watching, sometimes I just want to enjoy uninterrupted thinking in a quiet spot. The Newton Creek Nature Walk in Greenpoint is great for that.

Why?
Hardly a patch of green, this secluded pathway along the Newton Creek is a tribute to the grimy beauty of heavy manufacturing and a reminder of Greenpoint's past as a shipbuilding hub.

Favorite restaurant?
If you are looking for a place to bring a date you really like I recommend Zenkichi in Williamsburg. Once inside, the ingeniously placed mirrors, hidden rooms, and dim lights create a maze-like effect, and I feel like I slipped into some film noir from a long time ago.

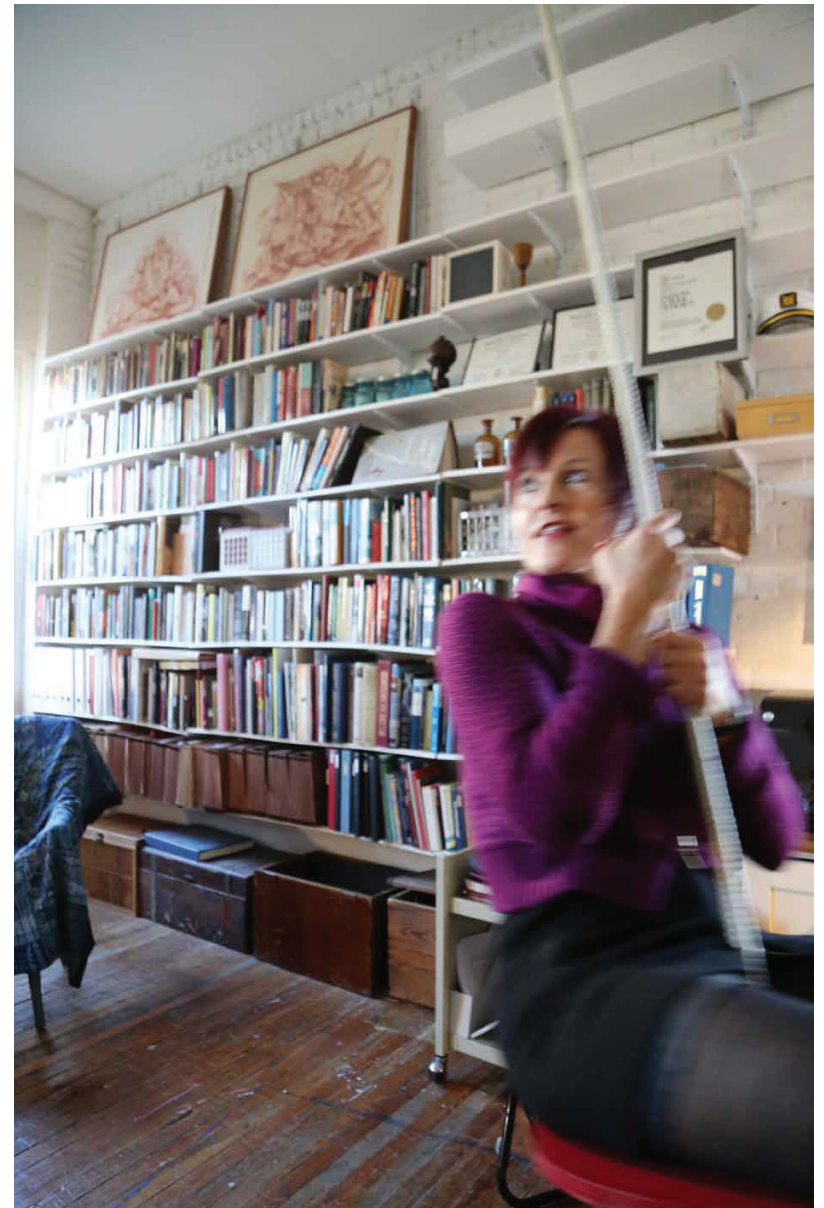
Favorite bar?
The Brooklyn Barge in Greenpoint. It's a boat floating on the East River without an actual street address.

Hidden gem?
The roof of my studio Last Frontier is a bird sanctuary, a beautiful wildflower meadow of native vegetation planted to attract wildlife. Against the backdrop of the surrounding industrial wasteland, complete with flames coming out of the pipes from the futuristic dome structure nearby, it makes for a surreal view. Few people know that this lovely spot is open to the public during regular business hours.

How to be(come) a New Yorker?
As Oscar Wilde put it: “Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”

Your New York soundtrack?
“Super Taranta!” by Gogol Bordello—the original New York gypsy punk band.

Can we come visit you?
Yes! (3 minute video interview quotedmagazine.com/sol)





Clockwise from Brush

5 THINGS THAT TELL A STORY ABOUT SOL

BRUSH "I am super happy to be a visual artist. It's what I always wanted."



BUDDHA "I picked up this merry fellow at an outdoor market when I was in China for an art exhibition. If granted a wish to meet one person from history I'd choose Buddha."

BOOKS "I am a total nerd when it comes to dictionaries. I collect words."

BEADS "I am very interested in symbols. The sphere and the beads have been important elements in my personal pictorial universe for many years now."

BROOCH "A dear friend of mine who is an Irish druid had this one made for me. We are both fascinated with spirals."

“My mediums are painting and drawing. I create images—preferably life size—of heaps and piles of naked bodies. All the naked bodies that you see are people in my life, my friends. If you know my circle, you’ll recognize faces. I try to say something about how all living beings—humans, animals, plants, all of it—are all connected into one big, beautiful thing. We are oneness having the experience of separateness. “

