



NINA CRUZ

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LEHIGH VALLEY, NJ/PA

[www.cruzcreate.com/news](http://www.cruzcreate.com/news)



Artist D Nina Cruz works on the art exhibition that will communicate the benefits of volunteerism to audiences at SteelStacks in Bethlehem, PA

## Art In Fashion ***the new BLACK— Volunteerism***

**An art exhibition focusing to encourage volunteerism by communicating the ‘volunteer benefits’ through visual arts and biographical narrative.**

Artist and creator D Nina Cruz is fast at work in her home studio preparing for an art exhibition this September at ArtsQuest’s SteelStacks in Bethlehem PA. Having arrived to the Lehigh Valley area just four years ago she has already made her mark in the arts and community she now takes pride being a part of on both sides of the NJ/PA border.

Cruz is no stranger to volunteerism, as she began over two decades ago using her creative concepts and artistry to volunteer during college. Since settling in she has given her time to notable non-profit organizations such as America’s Grow-A-Row in Pittstown NJ, Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley, and South Ridge Community Church in Clinton NJ. It is no wonder her next creative project is about volunteerism and its value.

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While Cruz believes all the benefits are not entirely quantifiable, she indicates that there is research now available that does well to measure emotional, psychological, and health benefits for those who practice volunteerism. “The show’s message is not about how organizations benefit from volunteers, but rather the extraordinary benefits experienced by the actual volunteer themselves. Living in a time where people are searching for purpose and antidotes to sadness and health issues, it is imperative to look at all that is at our disposal.”

The exhibition will showcase large painted portraits of actual volunteers from the community, along with biographical narratives. Cruz started her concept in 2015 and will culminate with this exhibition at the end of the summer. “It’s been a long voyage of planning and photographing volunteers for reference material.” Cruz is now in the painting phase of her solo show where she is actually using wood stain as a painting medium on maple panels.

This one woman force is also building a website to accompany the show. It will include articles of research on volunteering benefits as well as resources for those she hopes will be impacted by the show and consider making volunteerism a part of their lives.

***the new BLACK—Volunteerism*** art exhibition will be in the ArtsQuest Center building at 101 Founders Way in Bethlehem, PA. Sept 3rd - Oct 29th, 2017. For more details visit online at: [www.cruzcreate.com/show](http://www.cruzcreate.com/show). 



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**D Nina Cruz** is a visual artist working in different mediums, portraying figure and nature. Her work is detailed in layers of translucent paint. She is interested in the positive effects art has on the human condition. In her creativity she is passionate about individual elements that unite toward a cohesive vision. Painting in her home studio bordering PA/NJ, she engages in craftsmanship while advancing in new challenges with medium and design.