



PATRICIA OMONTE

Visual Artist
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Currently, Patricia Omonte, is employed by a local newspaper as a graphic designer. She was also the *Urban Artists Initiative* Coordinator for Norwalk for two years. The *Urban Artists Initiative* program was developed in 1992 in Bridgeport by the Connecticut Commission on the Arts and the Institute for Community Research. It quickly expanded to Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, Bristol, New Britain, Norwalk, Stamford, New London and Norwich. The program lasts for three years where artists receive 16-week intensive training about how to conduct themselves as professional artists. In addition, she has developed art workshops that incorporate language arts including foreign language, math and social studies to encourage appreciation and participation in the arts as an integral part of one's life. Furthermore, in her workshops, she introduces students to painting, drawing, poetry painting, graphic design, illustration, writing and designing with emphasis in understanding cultural influences.

This comes as no surprise since Ms. Omonte is originally a native of Peru - South America, where she lived her early years. Also, she has experienced the tropical climate of Ecuador where she resided for three years before emigrating to the United States in 1980.

One definitely recognizes the melting pot of such influences in her art work - small, bright, defined - it reflects her rich cultural background. Obvious is this in some of the pieces on display in this exhibit - paper batiks done with crayons, dyes and chalk focusing on the mysterious Nazca lines of Peru all relating back to their adoration of the God ~ Sun.

Omonte began to exhibit in the US in 1999 at the John Slade Ely House Gallery in New Haven and at the Conrad L. Mallett Sr. Art Gallery at Capital Community College in Hartford. In June of 2000, Patricia showcased her portraits at the UConn Gallery in the Stamford Campus and her *Nazca Lines Studies* at Bradley International Airport in December of 2001. In May, 2002, an exhibition of works by artists from the *Urban Artists Initiative* was held at the ICR Gallery where Patricia had nine pieces on display in the exhibit entitled, *Woman Symbols*. She had three historical pieces on display from April til July of 2002, at the Norwalk Museum in Norwalk, CT. She also exhibited pieces in the exhibit entitled - *Winter Solstice: Celebrations*, at the Norwalk Museum in November 2002 through January 2003. The artist has also conducted several *Learning to Look* workshops in elementary schools and has received three grants through the *Urban Artists Initiative* in conjunction with the Connecticut Commission on the Arts to promote her work.

Moreover, Omonte studied art at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Ct, where she received her B.A. in graphic design and minor in illustration. Her studio is based in Norwalk, Ct, where she lives with her husband and two children.