



Carlos Ramirez

'It dawned on me that art was not about rules and procedures, it was about romance.'



**Carlos Ramirez
(19 -)**



Barefoot in the garden (triptych)



Daybreak in the garden

Carlos Ramirez was born in Cuba. For political reasons his family moved to the United States when he was a child. His family's story is like that of many immigrants to New York.

'My parents came to this country with nothing but the clothes in their suitcase. They gave up a comfortable life that was deteriorating in hopes of a safe future. As an adult I can now admire their courage and determination. In their late thirties they landed in a country where they didn't speak the language, had no financial resources, and a small child.'

Ramirez always drew and painted, but as the only child of an immigrant family, his parents were concerned that he have a structured

profession, rather than take a chance on a career as an artist. In College he focused on drawing and drafting in the hopes of pursuing an architectural degree, but at the last minute, due to the prodding of his father, he applied to Law School. Ramirez received a full scholarship to the University of Miami Law School, where he excelled but soon realized his heart was not in it. In his last year he left the program to follow a vision of putting a fashion collection together. At age 23, he established the label **Liancarlo**, and today he is a highly recognized designer in the fashion world. The label has dressed dozens of celebrities, and his work has been featured in countless fashion magazines.

Carlos Ramirez's joyous, deep paintings invite us to connect with him at a level beyond words. His large-scale abstractions are serene and yet buoyant, tethered yet open, intuitive yet structured—closing the gap between the dualities that exist in both life and painting. His paintings reflect passion for independence and individuality. He loves working large because he feels as though he has "fallen into the painting, and that it is has taken all control of [his] visual world for the moment."

<http://carlosramirezart.com>

Line, colour, and shape are at the core of both his designs and paintings. They are not separate but have cohabited for many years—one being a natural outgrowth of the other. Ramirez continues to paint daily out of his cottage studio in Coral Gables, Florida.



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

In our harried, modern life, paintings can have a way of softening our man-made environments, serving as a window to an emotional view of nature.

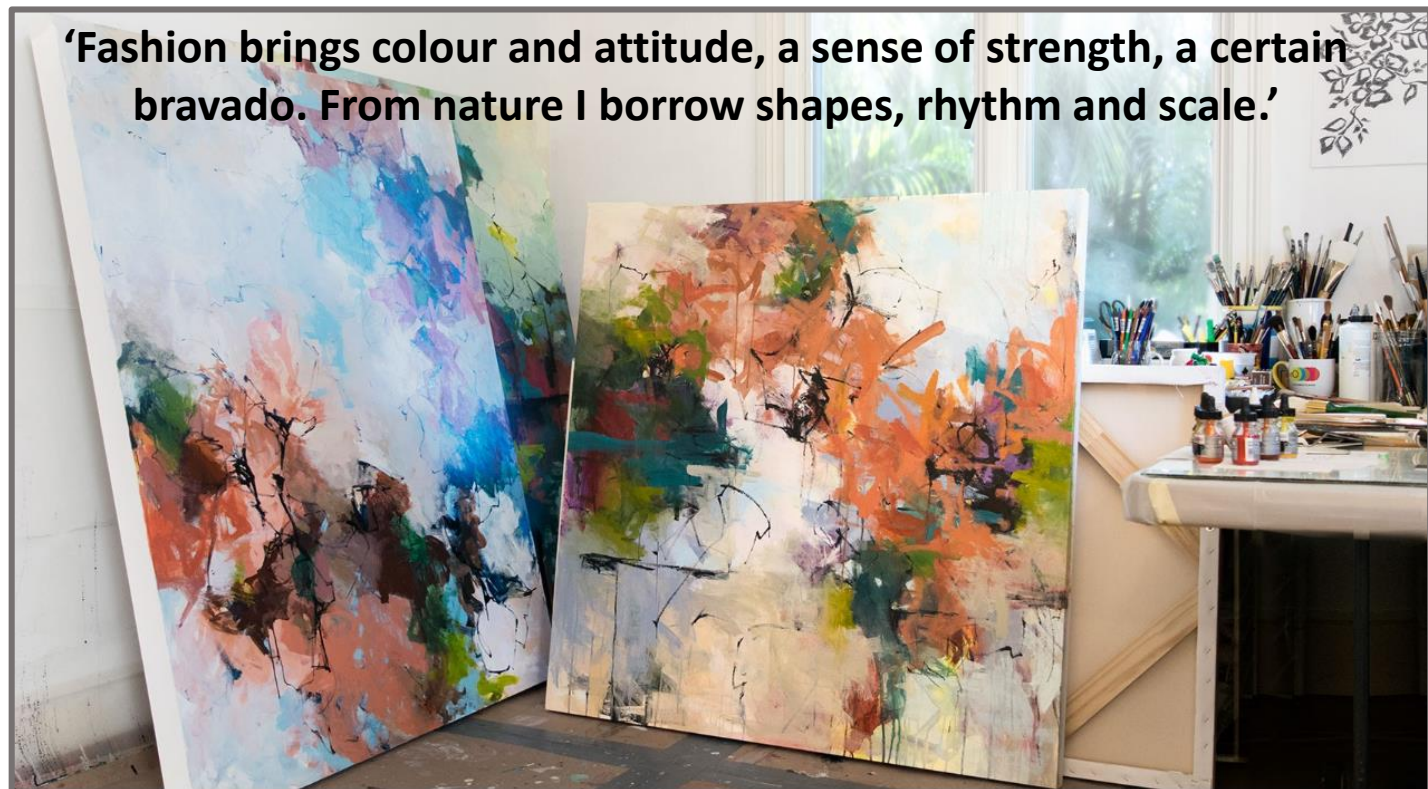
I strive to strike a balance between the harmony and chaos that exists in the natural world. I am heavily influenced by nature and find that connection constantly reflected in my paintings. Painting has a way of bringing me back full circle to my creative roots.

Through the interplay of line and colour I develop a personal language to depict the world. It is my own private voice expressed, an exploration into a world purely of my own making with no external rules or needs.

It allows me to speak from my heart, to what moves and motivates me, while serving as a mirror of my being and growing the connection to who I am.

'I paint large paintings because I want to make you feel like you fell into the painting and are surrounded by nature.'

'Fashion brings colour and attitude, a sense of strength, a certain bravado. From nature I borrow shapes, rhythm and scale.'



See video clip at <http://carlosramirezart.com/film/>



Tea in an English garden



Starfish revealed by the ebbing tide

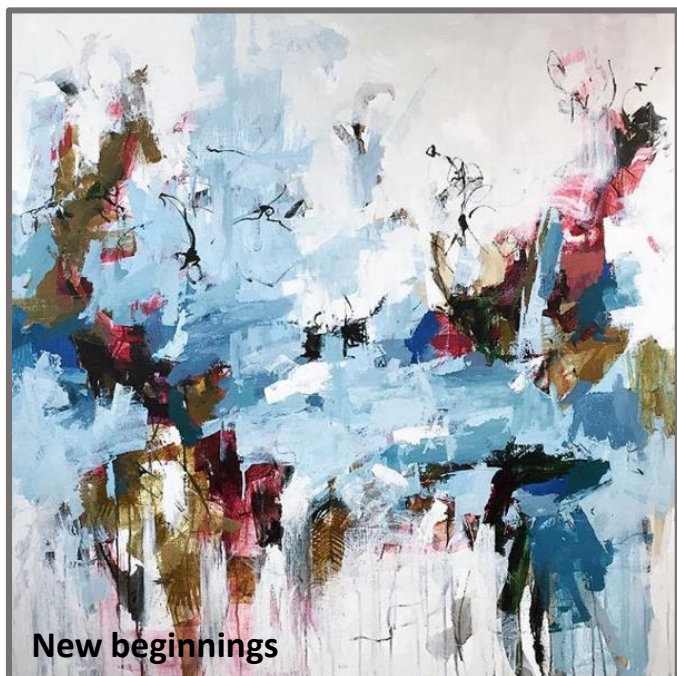


Jacaranda blooms



The Sea Grape Tree

Having his own fashion label **Liancarlo** has provided a creative outlet for Carlos, since that involves sketching, drawing prints and embroideries and manipulating colour in new and exciting ways, season after season.



New beginnings

'Painting has always been at the core of what I do, it has always been my inspiration and my escape from the confines of fashion. Painting and fashion are also the basis of a personal language for me. I find myself going back and forth between the two. I think it is part of what adds authenticity to my work.'

Banyan Tree in the East Field



Carlos paints large abstracts loosely based on nature.

Starting with bold black ink sketches that reference leaves, petals or stones, he then works in multiple layers of broken colour. He works back and forth in this manner until he achieves the depth and complexity he strives for.

The overall effect is catching the light flickering on the bay or as you lie under a tree, those glimpses of sunlight through the leaves.

In essence his work aims to bring the natural world back into our lives.