



SHINING A LIGHT ON OLIVIA STEELE



A studio is a temple; a place reserved for the ritual of creation. Artist Olivia Steele expresses life's revelations and lessons through the usage of contrast. BAPs visits her Berlin studio – a colorful atelier that resembles a church! Olivia Steele is an insightful and acute artist. She welcomed us into a room filled with colors, spray, some of her artworks, her multiple collection of trinkets, comfortable green arm chairs and a heat-wave proof fan. Her works of art are concise and can be grasped within seconds but nevertheless they linger on and deserve a more thoughtful interpretation process.

Her pieces consist in a statement handwritten in neon lights placed over a photo or a setting, either artificial or natural .

[...] Most art comes from a place of suffering and is a vehicle to process the pain and the frustration and illness or whatever. I make my art from a place of discovery, from enlightenment, from the search of meaning for things and processing a certain situation and making something positive out of it, or just try to understand myself. It has a more philosophical angle to it and to celebrate every tragedy because every tragedy is an opportunity. All of these things set you up for being better, if you chose to accept it. It's a process and I always say trust the process. [...] I'm a visual person and I love words. Words are very powerful but in very concise and short contexts, especially when you put them in context with something else. I'm a text-based artist, I use one sentence that can mean everything and I find strength in words. They are my vehicle. I was really influenced by Rumi, I can say that reading that in school changed me a lot. I still go back to some of those poems to make sense; to find solutions to certain situations.

[...] It's hard to talk about my work because everything is so open to interpretation and every one has their reading based on their history. Why I made it and how it came from my head and into the physical is almost irrelevant. It's put out there for people to consume, for people to interpret into experience. It's a moment of experience. [...]