

OUR QUEER ART

Learn about LGBT and Queer artists and their art.

SHAWNA VIRAGO, SAN FRANCISCO SONGWRITER, INTERVIEW



writer John Salib | 28 November 2016

What is your name?

Shawna Virago

Where are you from?

San Francisco

What kind of work do you create?

Lyric based songs

What do you define yourself as? Or do you not? Why/Why not?

Songwriter

How long have you been practicing?

A lady can't answer that question

What interests you about your medium or why do you use this medium?

I like the interplay between text and music

If not answered in a previous question, when were you first exposed to your art form?

As a child of AM radio

What kind of work do you want to create, or what work are you inspired by that you would like to strive for/emulate?

I am inspired by wordsmith musicians, from Woody Guthrie, to Bob Dylan, Guy Clark, Leonard Cohen and Billy Bragg

Every artist loses inspiration, or has "writer's block." What do you do to push through it?

I try not to panic and to refill the well by doing something else, like watching old French films

What is special about your work? What do you have to say that others don't?

I believe my work speaks up for queer underdogs and those living on the margins in a way I don't see others doing.

What limitations do you find with your medium?

I work in a very old form, started by Middle Age troubadours. It's just me and my guitar, there's no bells and whistles and we live in an age that people like bells and whistles.

What do you want to tell artists who are just beginning their journeys?

Find your own territory. Don't compare yourself to others, you have valid things to say.

You are not allowed to use your medium anymore, what medium do you choose to begin and why?

I would either write prose full-time or just bang on pots and pans.

Are you currently working on a project you'd like to plug?

I am currently releasing my new album on Tranimal Records, called 'Heaven Sent Delinquent.' It's ten songs and focuses on various escape artists and brawling women and tough dandies.

Where can we find your work?

My website: <http://shawnvirago.com>. And the video of my new single 'Gender Armageddon': <https://youtu.be/8kz0vo0exmY>. My album is available at CD Baby.

<http://ourqueerart.com/shawna-virago/>