



DISCOVERING KRISTIN SALERI

Q & A with Dr. Nansen G. Saleri

President & CEO, Quantum Reservoir Impact (QRI)

by Ms. Paulina Rojas, *Life & Arts Editor, The Daily Cougar, University of Houston*

How was it growing up with such a creative mother?

With the benefit of hindsight, it was fascinating for me. My sister and twin brother will have their own opinions. Kristin Saleri was an intensely loving, intensely charming, and intensely demanding mother – that is a euphemism for saying life was mostly heavenly with moments of hell when we did not meet her standards of perfection in everything we did.

What inspired you to start the Kristin Saleri art foundation?

This was a promise that I had made to my mother the day she passed away – October 30, 2006. Her biggest fear was to be forgotten like so many other great artists during the course of history.

What is the goal/purpose of the foundation?

The goal of the foundation is to memorialize Kristin Saleri's artistic genius for everybody to cherish.

What other events have been put on in the Houston?

At QRI, my company's headquarters in Houston, we have set up a small Kristin Saleri gallery displaying some of her works in charcoal, oil paintings, and ceramic. QRI is a high-tech value-creation enterprise in oil and gas. My mother's primary medium – oil – coincides with mine. And her art sets a high standard to match for all our employees. I can see her frowning if we are not creative!

Why was Blaffer chosen for this special exhibition?

The Blaffer Art Museum represents the very values of my mother – supporting art and artists. Last year the Blaffer Youth Center was renamed the Kristin Saleri Studio, which makes the connection with Blaffer even more poignant.

Why is it important to you that students come out to this event?

What is life without art?

What do students have to look forward to at this event?

Look for life, love, and mother earth in different shapes and colors.

What do you think was your mother's biggest inspiration?

When I asked my mother (circa 2005) "What is the hidden message in your artwork?" her response was "It is all about life."

What is the most important legacy your mother has left behind through her art?

She has so many. Yet, I must say life and spirituality through black and white, orange, and blue. In random order.

Is there anything else you would like to add, that I have not asked about?

Houston is a city of inertia. My goal is to make Kristin Saleri's artwork an integral part of the city's diverse and equally dynamic cultural mosaic.

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