

I Broke the Rules

By BJ Barnes

Rules: Those constraints that keep me from being an individual.

Rules: Those artificial barriers that keep me from reaching the height and depth of the creativity of my soul.

Rules: The thoughts that if I am deemed "smart", I must have a job that screams "smart" but stifles my spirit.

Rules: The definition by others regarding who I am and/or who I should be.

Rules: The societal constructs that keep relationships superficial and, often, meaningless.

Rules: Guides so ridiculous that they beg to be broken.

One day – and I really cannot tell you how it came to be – but one day I acknowledged to myself that I am a creative person – not just a possessor of skills and facilities but a CREATIVE person of the arts. I celebrate energy, color, texture, form, line space and value with every day bringing a brand new way of looking at the wonder that is life. Creativity is truly definitive of BREAKING THE RULES.

Would Pablo Picasso have been as interesting if he had not broken the rules that define "fine art"? Where would the art world be without the paintings that reflected Picasso's influence by African sculpture and traditional African masks? Traditional painting had been the balanced interaction between color and form, whereas, African Art allowed Picasso to abstract form and to explore it.

Although I am not a Picasso, I broke the rules and found me.