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Elida Rey's art career is going strong in her 90's

At age 93, Elida Rey's art is a reflection of the culture she lived in for over half of her life. She was born in Montevideo, Uruguay in 1917. After completing her BFA at the School of Fine Arts in Montevideo in 1937, Elida worked with different mediums including pastels, pencil, oils, tapestry and weaving. After a few years, she returned to university to complete her Certificate in Art Education. She taught drawing in high school for many years until she moved to Vancouver in 1980, following her daughter and son.

Elida Rey returned to Uruguay every year for the summer months when the "Carnaval" takes over the country. It was during one of those trips that she started using the batik technique to capture the mystery of the "Carnaval". Her curiosity and love for the African population in Montevideo made her enter the world of the "llamadas", or "el carnaval de los negros". Her medium of choice was Batik on cloth or paper. "As I draw and apply the many layers of wax," Elida says, "my intuition takes over and at the end everything becomes an experience for the senses: vivid colors, bodies turning, and the continuous drumming of the "tamboriles" bringing it all together to an encompassing experience".

Elida Rey has had several open studios in Vancouver, a solo exhibition in the Silk Purse in West Vancouver, and was part of three collective exhibitions in Montevideo.

As this year's oldest member, the Artists In Our Midst Society is delighted to sponsor Elida Rey. Now in its nineteenth year, Artists in Our Midst kicks off with The Roundhouse Exhibit, a dynamic two-day group exhibit and sale at the Roundhouse Community Centre featuring over 60 artists. This is followed by Open Studios, a weekend of touring studios and artist-created galleries throughout Vancouver's west side. The first of such groups in Vancouver, this exciting and dynamic community event is a great opportunity to engage with artists and patrons alike.

Elida Rey is available for interviews in Spanish and English.

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