

featured artist

NYC WOMEN'S ART COLLECTIVE

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LEVESQUE TRIPLETS



WHERE ARE YOU FROM? HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE CITY?

Ani: We are from Cape Cod, Massachusetts!

Athena: Right now we live in Astoria. Ani and I have been in NYC for two years.

Ari: I've been in New York for 6 years! I first moved here to attend FIT and my sisters followed a few years later.

WHAT ARE YOUR CREATIVE AREAS OF EMPHASIS?

Ani: Right now our main focus is modeling and working as fashion and beauty influencers. My personal creative focus is on photography as well, which has been super useful in our work together!

Ari: On top of working as influencers and content creators, I personally like to exercise my fashion design skills, as well as makeup artistry, and recently, writing/illustrating books!

Athena: As Ani said, we all are primarily focusing on modeling and working as influencers. That being said, we've always been interested in acting as well. I really enjoy comedy.



WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON?

Ani: We are always working on a few different projects. Right now we are working on a swimsuit lookbook video for the summer that will go on our YouTube channel. Of course, we're always doing photo shoots and working on creating content - that will never stop! We are also being approached regularly by a variety of reality shows interested in casting us. Eventually one may be a fit!

Ari: We are working on a children's book series called "The Triplet Witches." The title is relatively self explanatory, but the goal is to tell stories about triplet witches working together to learn new spells, and fight evil monsters! It is such a fun experience to be able to create a new world, and to work with my sisters on the writing. But my favorite part is drawing the illustrations, first by hand, and then finish in illustrator. The idea is to give the illustrations a cartoon look and feel. We have written and illustrated the first book of the series, and are finishing the editing now!

Athena: We've been talking about potentially expanding our YouTube channel lately. So many casting directors and other people that we've worked with have suggested we put our time into it a bit more to really showcase this unique dynamic we have. We tend to agree - photos just can't capture our fun, back and forth repartee.



WHERE ARE YOUR FAVORITE PLACES IN THE CITY?

We are based in Astoria and really love the community here! It's busy but very suburban and homey. We know our neighbors and our mailman. Astoria is also a great place to get something to eat. Our favorite "go to" cafe during the day and bar/restaurant at night is The Queens Room in Astoria. We love to eat Korean food in Ktown, and Van Leeuwen in the Lower East side has our favorite Earl Grey Ice cream!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE MOVING TO THE CITY TO PURSUE THEIR PASSIONS?

Ani: The city brings so much opportunity compared to other places in the world. Whether you're from a small town or even simply a smaller city it doesn't take long to see that New York is a place filled with other creatives and a variety of opportunities. You just have to look! And if you can't find exactly what you're looking for, you can always make it happen yourself. New York is such a beautiful city for that reason!

Ari: Find yourself a stable job doing what you know, but always keep hustling with your art/passion at the same time. It can be daunting to move to the city, and trying to support yourself solely on your art of choice can feel impossible sometimes. So don't put pressure on yourself to work in your creative field for money, do it to grow and build your portfolio. Once you are settled and you have your feet on the ground, don't be afraid to push open any and every door that relates to your passion. Connect with everyone in the field. You can learn something from anyone you meet in the industry. Be open to listen and learn!

Athena: Don't be afraid to jump into anything and everything! You will learn so much, make friends and get to know the city. Collaborating with other artistic people is a great way to learn and also create a strong support system for you.

"NYC'S Triple Threat"



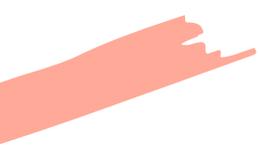
Ani



Ari



Athena



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE SOMEONE PURSUING AN ARTISTIC CAREER?

Ani: I think that many young creatives with a passion or talent just starting out don't necessarily have the confidence to pursue their creative as a career or even as a priority. My guess is because they, like me when I went off to college, never had the opportunity or resources to put the effort into developing it, whatever it may be. My advice is, give yourself and your passion a real chance. This may mean taking risks or even taking out a loan to pay for the equipment or tools you need. If art is something you care about deeply, especially when you're young you owe it to yourself to really give it a chance to grow as far as it possibly can. You have time! Don't let these kinds of obstacles keep you from going for it. I wish I had realized this sooner!

Ari: Try everything, and don't be afraid to start at the bottom. Take every internship, work for free and do your own research at home for whatever it is you are looking to pursue. Keep a stable job on the side to pay your bills, but don't let yourself get stuck doing something you don't love. Art can change and grow into many different things. So don't be afraid to open new doors. You will be surprised at how your skills can translate to something new that you never considered before.

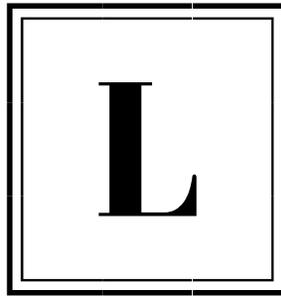
Athena: I would suggest trying as many things as you can. You can learn so much and gain so many useful skills by trying different things, even if it is in a slightly different industry or role than you are aiming for. The more experiences you have, the more connections you can make and the more inspired you will be! Also, realize that learning is a process and it may take time to become successful. If you work hard and practice, over time you will surely find success.

DO YOU/ DID YOU HAVE A "SURVIVAL" JOB? WHAT IS IT?

Ani: Like so many other artists struggling to sustain their artistic careers we have multiple jobs. I am lucky enough to work part time as a fashion/e-commerce photographer at Michael's Consignment in the Upper East Side. They've been good to me! I spend the other part of my time working in Human Resources for a Business Group. We've been making it all work, though it hasn't been easy!

Ari: When I was in college studying Fashion Design at the Fashion Institute of Technology, I worked side jobs as a nanny, I taught sewing to kids, I worked on piece-work sewing projects as a seamstress, and I also worked as a tailor.

Athena: I have honestly had so many different survival jobs it's ridiculous. I worked as a clown, a full time extra, a gamemaster at an escape room, a tutor, ESL teacher, Executive Function Coach, photography assistant, administrative work--you name it! The past year I have used my masters in education and teaching experience to work as a teacher/tutor to pay the bills.



HOW CAN WE SUPPORT FEMALE-IDENTIFYING AND GENDERQUEER ARTISTS

Ani: More support, less hate!

Ari: I think the world needs more artistic vision and creatives in other states and countries. New York City is filled with creatives who love and appreciate sharing their art with the world. But I know many other places are not bustling with people who have the opportunity to share art. I think we need more opportunities, jobs, and schools that focus on art, to allow people everywhere to feel comfortable to pursue their art, and grow.

Athena: More understanding. It would be wonderful if everyone could feel comfortable acting and dressing like who they truly are, despite what their job is or what expectations are on them.

WHAT WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT THING YOU'VE PERSEVERED THROUGH IN THE FIELD THUS FAR?

Ani: When we were 22 our father passed away suddenly. That was one of the big things that encouraged us to come back together after college and start working on creative projects as triplets. After surviving that, so many other challenges seemed easier to overcome. Experiencing a tragic loss can put things into perspective. After all that, I'm grateful it brought something wonderful - the three of us pursuing our dreams together in NYC.

Ari: I think that besides family experiences, the three of us had to overcome figuring out our niche, our purpose as a team, and how to use our talents. When we were first starting out together in NYC, we started out modeling. But it didn't always pay the bills. We needed to figure out how to keep hustling and working towards something that we really wanted to do. We had to either figure that out, or eventually give up and go our separate ways. We learned to dip our toes into many things, and really use all of our talents as a team.

Athena: Our father passing at 22 was definitely the hardest time in our lives. It forced all of us to ask ourselves hard questions about what we wanted our lives to look like. We were all very confused and grieving. It did bring us three closer together and helped us realize what we really wanted to do with our lives. I stopped teaching History to high School students and moved to NYC with Ani to pursue modeling with my sisters. Although it was the hardest time in our lives, we gained a lot of perspective and learned early what our priorities truly are.

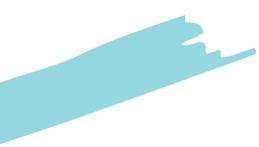


WHY ARE THE ARTS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Ani: The arts gave me an opportunity when I was at my most difficult point in my life to leave the trauma behind and focus on something great. It kept me moving forward. It gave (and now gives) me something to look forward to. There is always room to grow which keeps me motivated while also allowing me to watch my progress and feel accomplished. Most people just need something special to put their energy into and the arts offers that in a completely personal and fulfilling way.

Ari: I basically live and breathe art, in so many different forms. When I was young I found myself in sewing and design. As I grew up I learned that I enjoyed many other forms of art, and then I learned that they are all connected. I also learned that you don't have to stop at one thing and master it just because you are good at it. I love drawing, and writing, and makeup artistry, and fashion, and the list goes on and on. But I don't just love creating, I love seeing other works of art, because I learn so much from other people. I read countless books, and from reading other Author's stories I learned about my own passion for writing. Seeing filmography and videography sparks such inspiration in me, even though that isn't my skill. The arts are important to me because if I do not create or enjoy any form of art, the world would absolutely be a boring place.

Athena: The arts have always been an outlet for me. I am a person who has a hard time working the 9-5 office job lifestyle. I have always needed a more creative and unexpected job or outlet to feel fulfilled and happy. I also think my sisters and I have always been drawn to it since we were little girls, performing runway shows and concerts for our parents in the basement.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE/MOST EFFECTIVE WORK OF ART YOU'VE SEEN RECENTLY?

Ani: Last year we worked with Raphael Mazzucco, a very talented artist. Every time I see a new piece, or even an old one, I have to take a moment to appreciate it. He combines a variety of mediums and I'm always struck by the way he combines fashion, colors and nature with his subjects in his work. He is certainly one to watch.

Ari: Alexander McQueen's Spring 2019 Ready to Wear collection was as always, a stunning and beautifully cohesive line, which blended soft silhouettes, lightweight fabrics, and feminine colors with leather, structured pieces, and edgy designs. The regal and victorian details paired with modern styles and cuts were so perfectly done. The collection was overall gorgeous and exciting to look at. There was no look that bores or lacks personality. It is quite an inspiring collection!

Athena: Recently I saw Beetlejuice on Broadway. I am a huge fan of Halloween and comedy. This play blew me away with its creative set, talented actors, and hilarious dialog. It won "Outstanding set design (play or musical)" by the Outer Critics Circle Awards and Drama Desk Awards for a reason! I am desperate to see it again!

WHAT ARE YOUR MUST READS, MUST LISTEN'S, MUST WATCH?

Ani: My sisters and I love reading books written by actresses, comedians, models and other industry professionals documenting their personal lives and careers. Reading about their personal journeys overcoming the obstacles of a tough industry is inspiring. Some of our favorites (and I know my sisters will agree) are Amy Schumer's "The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo", "Talking As Fast As I Can: From Gilmore Girls to Gilmore Girls, and Everything in Between" by Lauren Graham, "Scrappy Little Nobody" by Anna Kendrick and "A New Model: What Confidence, Beauty, and Power Really Look Like" by Ashley Graham.

WHERE CAN WE FIND YOU ON SOCIAL?

Ani: You can find us on our instagram at **@levesquetriplets**.

Ari: We're also on YouTube - search Levesque Triplets or follow the link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSwGXTZzB9fWtZ3olvi5sNA>

Athena: Our facebook page is
<https://www.facebook.com/levesquetriplets/>

thank you for sharing !