

posing nude for any purpose made me a little uncomfortable. However, I am a firm believer in following the voice within so I knew that this was something I needed to pursue. I was already following body painter Craig Tracy (who is also a judge on Netflix series "Skin Wars" btw!) on social media- I nervously sent him an email. I introduced myself and told him how much I admired his art and that I wanted to work on a project with him. Craig agreed to meet with me. We met at his art studio on Royal St. and I expressed to him that I wanted to create artwork for my upcoming single release. We bounced ideas back and forth for about a month before we decided on a theme. Working with Craig has inspired me on another level. We spent the whole day exchanging stories, painting and posing. Halfway through we took a short break to enjoy shrimp po boys and root beers. I began to tell Craig about my frustrations with not being where I wanted to be in my career and how I wanted to build a career from my original music and not just be known as the girl who sings on Bourbon Street or the girl who lost her momentum after becoming a top 40 finalist on American Idol. He encouraged me by telling me about his early career days when he was air brushing T-shirts in the mall. He told me

about the long hours that he worked and the countless number of sleepless nights that he had while pursuing his dreams. My time with Craig made me realize that our union was more than just two artists coming together to work on a project. This was the inspiration that I needed in order to continue building my lane. I left Craig's home studio feeling like I gained knowledge that I will continue to carry with me when I am having feelings of doubt, self pity and worry. I felt like if Craig could build his career from the ground up, then so could I. I appreciate Craig for the wisdom that he shared with me in just the few encounters that we have had. I plan to use the image that Craig and I created as my cover art for my new single "Loved" set to be released on my birthday 08/26.



[@AssataRenay](#)  
[@CraigTracyArt](#)



[www.AssataRenay.com](http://www.AssataRenay.com)  
[www.CraigTracy.com](http://www.CraigTracy.com)