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[USF celebrates renowned artist’s murals in new music building](#)

by Evelynnn Jimenez



Janaina Tschäpe being interviewed at the reception for the addition of her murals to the new music building. Photo by Evelynnn Jimenez

The USF School of Music held a reception on March 31 for artist Janaina Tschäpe in the concert hall of the new music building. Tschäpe is the creator of the two incredible and massive murals decorating the front of the building’s lobby.

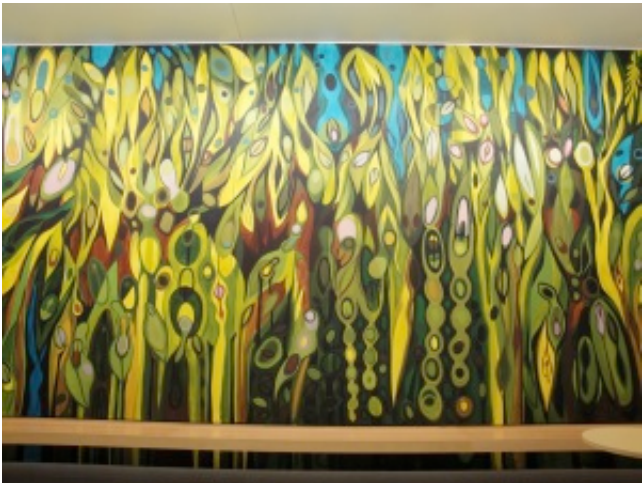
The murals are called *Forest Spirits* and were inspired by Florida’s luxuriant greenness, heat and humidity. Born in Germany and raised in Brazil, Tschäpe also found a lot of inspiration from her roots, using mythical settings and folklore from childhood fairytales.

“There are many mythological creatures like mermaids and witches from stories from Brazil that I think of for inspiration. Nature in Brazil is very thick and very present and my studio is there, so I always think of that when I’m working,” Tschäpe said.

She incorporated all of these inspirations into this project at USF and worked from eight to nine hours a day for four weeks. The murals depict a lush forest twirling in deep greens, blues and reds.

“This for me was amazing, this is the biggest mural I have ever done,” she said.

Tschäpe lives in New York City and apart from painting, she draws, photographs, sculpts and produces films and videos.



One of two murals by Janaina Tschäpe in the lobby of the new building for the School of Music. Photo by: Evelynnn Jimenez

She has worked for USF before when she was commissioned by the Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) in 2004 to develop a high definition video installation titled *Blood Sea*, which was filmed at Florida’s Weeki Wachee Springs.

Tschäpe has had her work shown throughout the world including Tokyo, London, Berlin, Spain, France and Ireland among others.

She is currently working on a drawing show in Berlin planned to showcase in June.

The murals cost approximately \$95,000 and were commissionedby an institute committee administered by the USF Institute for Research in Art.

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