

Rebecca Ann Blecher

REBECCA ANN BLEECHER was born in 1966 in Los Angeles, California where she lived briefly before moving to upstate New York, Ohio, then Massachusetts where she currently resides. She is the second of four children and developed a love of art at a young age. Her favorite gifts were always art supplies and books. Her grandparents, who lived in NYC, took her to their art classes, museums, and the theater and her parents signed her up for classes at the Worcester Art Museum. As a child, she loved Rousseau, Chirico, Magritte, and Escher for their mystery and surrealism.



Musician watercolor on paper 36" x 48"

Writing and illustrating books was also a fun childhood pastime.

She moved to Amherst when her daughter was a year and a half to attend UMASS. She graduated with honors in 1988 with a BFA in Painting, and a minor in printmaking and psychology. Professor John Grillo was her main influence regarding color and composition. Her focus at this

time was on figurative scenes of dark haired dancers with blue faces looking over their shoulder, the tango, bold colored figures perpetually waiting, black and white figures dreaming with fish bowls, and elaborate still life oil paintings of fruit, flowers, and patterned fabric.



Girl with Eagle Earrings, mixed media painting with acrylic paint, graphite, gel medium, color pencil, ink, and marker on paper, approx. 24" x 18"

In her mid-20's, Rebecca began to feel isolated painting independently and began an MBA program at Western New England College. During a school break, a friend introduced her to Occupational therapy and she switched her studies, graduating with high honors from Worcester State University. For 10 years Rebecca continued in a career as an Occupational therapist in both the physical and mental health fields.

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She decided to focus on Energy Medicine School and trained in shamanism, and began a part-time healing practice in the evenings after work. Her training in Reiki, meditation, Zero Balancing, and Process Acupressure, eventually led to a spiritual awakening that had an effect on her inspiration, creative process, and subject matter. Although this took time away from her art, she channeled her creativity into healing, teaching meditation and energy medicine workshops. She continued to grow artistically during her vacation time through workshops at Art New England, Snowfarm, and other various workshops.

Since 1987 she has exhibited throughout New England, and has ongoing representation by R. Michelson galleries in Northampton, MA and The Little Store in Great Barrington, MA. Her art is collected internationally.

Currently, Rebecca has a healing practice in Northampton, MA, teaches art workshops at her Easthampton studio, and has written and illustrated several children's picture and chapter books that she plans to pursue publishing. Her cards are sold locally at the River Valley Coop in Easthampton. She lives in Northampton, MA with her life partner.



Friends, acrylic and oil paint on canvas, 30" X 24"

### The Artist Statement

“Creating art allows me to be fully present and connected to myself and what I’m doing, while giving me a window through which to glimpse the hidden realms of my subconscious state.”

This exhibition of my artwork shows the transition from representational painting to mostly abstract mixed media; and more recently, to embracing both.

My process is intuitive; sometimes clumsy and messy, sometimes fluid and breathtaking. Art has become a conscious

journey, to explore, make, unmake, and make again. I used to be attached

to certain aspects of a piece...so much so that I would work around the section that moved me, even when the only reason the rest of the painting wasn't working was not letting it go. My medium was oil paint, watercolor, wood cuts, and charcoal. My subjects were representational: figures and still life's; stylized and bold in color, or black and white graphic images with watercolor or pastel. The themes were of waiting, dreaming, longing for something, remembering.

Following a Kundalini Awakening, my art took a turn



Somewhere Over the Rainbow, encaustic, oil pastel, and oil stick on cradled wood panel, 20" X 20"



Reflections, encaustic and oil paint on cradled wood panel, 10" X 10"



Hydrangea, acrylic, acrylic medium, and oil paint on board, 30" X 24"

toward the spiritual in terms of both theme and process. I began a healing practice and the subjects of my art became healers and deities. I had found my calling. Soon I found myself creating intuitive abstract compositions using mixed media: paint, charcoal, graphite, oil sticks, oil pastel, tar, cold wax, encaustic, burnt paper, tree bark, etc. Some of the pieces have a sense of mystery or curiosity that I loved as a child. There is a sense of the abstract forms having personas, and others with a feeling of flying over neighborhoods, natural settings, and cities that I relate to shamanic journeying. The application of the medium varies painting to painting, from bold color to subtle intricacies depending on where I feel drawn.

original pieces. I notice a sense of the surreal emerging that mimics my current life experience and practice as a shaman. I follow my intuition as I create,

then apply a critical eye to adjust composition, color, line, and application to complete.

<https://www.instagram.com/rebeccableecher>



Red Tulip in Blue Bottle, mixed media painting with paper, acrylic paint, oil paint, and graphite on canvas, 30" X 24"



Morning Light, mixed media with paper, acrylic paint, charcoal, graphite, and paint pen on paper, approx. 14" X 10"



Shifting Awareness, mixed media painting with acrylic paint, graphite, pencil, paper, and ink on paper, 16" X 13"



Let's Play, mixed media painting with acrylic paint, ink, graphite, color pencil, and oil pastel on paper, 10.5" X 13"



Farmland, mixed media painting with acrylic, charcoal, graphite, pencil, colored pencil, and ink pen on paper, 17.5" X 17"



Sojourner's Rest, mixed media collage with acrylic paint, dungaree, leather, ink on paper, 11" X 13"





I Heard God Laughing, mixed media painting with acrylic paint, watercolor and ink pencil, oil pastel, and collage elements on paper, approx. 28" X 22"