

Jade Chooses a New Path

Watercolor and Ink

\$150

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Artist's Statement

The main character in “Piecing Me Together” is Jade, a teenage girl who feels very unsure of herself as she grows up amid poverty and racial discrimination in Portland. She wonders where she belongs, because she feels that she doesn’t fit in anywhere. She hesitates to speak up and ask questions that are on her mind. After struggling with these conflicts, she realizes that her interests, creative ideas and dreams do have value and that she has the power to speak up to be heard and choose her own path.

The joy and excitement that Jade feels as a result of being ready to create her future is the most compelling aspect of the book for me. I picture her with a wide grin and a song in her heart as she studies a large map. She realizes she is not restricted to her familiar urban boundaries but free to go wherever she pleases and choose a career that she is passionate about.

I chose watercolors, watercolor crayon, and ink to paint this picture of Jade as she sets out to explore with new confidence. The title is “Jade Chooses a New Path.” I used line and color and words written into the painting to portray her excitement with new possibilities, as she did when she used colorful bits of cloth and paper to create her artistic collages.

Bio

I began creating art in travel sketchbooks to capture landscapes and seascapes in rural France. Inspired by several art instructors, I explored painting in watercolor and later in acrylics on paper or canvas. I continue to paint watercolor portraits on commission. Currently my acrylic paintings may be seen at the Bush Barn Art Center in Salem and the Cannon Beach Gallery on the northern coast.

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