

## **Piecing Me Together**

Mixed Media (Applique, Hand-Embroidery, Acrylic and Colored Pencil on Fabric)

**\$285.00**

### **Carolyn Lehl**

#### **Artist's Statement**

This piece is an extreme departure both stylistically and technically from most of my usual work. It began as an attempt to represent a vision I had last summer while relaxing on our patio; I envisioned a naked woman, possibly me, reaching down to help another woman out of a pool of water. It was very fleeting, but gave me an insight: that after many years of *receiving* and being mentored by others, perhaps it was time for me to be the one to be of help.

After I read the book, I thought about that vision as a metaphor for part of Jade's experience. I too, grew up in Portland, and had traveled to many of the same places by bus when I was younger. I'm also an artist, and a writer which I think gives me another insight into the character and her use of art as self-expression. I understood her being in the role of mentoring the woman who was supposed to be mentoring her.

It soon became clear to me that I should include the woman-helping-women vision in the design for the art piece. Starting with ballpoint pen, I messed around with the image in the "Paint" program on my computer. I then decided to include embroidery as well as fabric applique so I could literally "Piece" the word "ME" together. I employed African style fabrics with colors and motifs to pay homage to the amazing creations of the African culture, hopefully channeling some of that brilliance into the finished composition. The word ME is embroidered entirely by hand.

I copied the finished computer sketch onto a piece of fabric and drew it in colored pencil. I then overpainted it with a mixture of smooth gloss-acrylic-gel medium mixed with acrylic color, using a pallet knife to make it so it wouldn't be too detailed. I wanted it vague and symbolic rather than being an accurate depiction of a particular individual.

The embroidered and appliqued fabric portion is all hand-stitched and then basted onto the background fabric. The blue background with sparkles denotes infinite night sky to lend a little mystery and a cosmic atmosphere. The very clear energy charge and exchange that happens when their hands meet is symbolized by the yellow glow of light emitting from the point of contact.

#### **Bio**

Artist Carolyn Lehl is a native Portlander and honors graduate of Portland state university. This Award winning artist has spent most of her life in creative pursuits such as drawing painting and gardening. Nature is her primary influence and acrylic paint is her main medium.

Having worked over two decades as a professional muralist and faux-finisher, Carolyn spent the lion's share of her time working in private homes and businesses. Time spent focusing on her personal work has always been in short supply, and very close to her heart.

Relocating to Salem has given Carolyn the opportunity to focus more on her gardening and fine art. She quickly immersed herself in the local art scene and finding time to continue to create.

She still works in Acrylic, and has a renewed passion for embroidery and colored pencil and continues to create new pieces for local shows and just for the joy of it.

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