

Aspirations

Watercolor and gouache on Fabriano Artistico 300 lb. watercolor paper
\$350

Jean Lea

Artist's Statement

I was taken on a journey while reading about Jade's struggles to find her identity and fit into the outside world in the book *Piecing Me Together*. When Jade experienced setbacks and feelings of rejection, she would turn to writing in her journal and creating collages that conveyed her feelings which in turn provided her comfort. I felt that Jade's aspirations to be recognized and accepted was what gave her the strength to endure even the worst of times. Jade's daily travels crossing the Willamette river on bridges that connected the Portland communities, but only physically, reminded me of my time working in Portland in an office near the river and wanted to show the river and a bridge in the painting because it was a big part of Jade's life in Portland. In developing the painting I wanted to portray Jade isolated, yet in her comfort zone surrounded by her collages, papers, and journal; but I also wanted to show her looking outside to feed her thoughts and aspirations. When she finally received recognition and felt that she had an identity and fit in, it was clear to me that the journey for her had only began and she would continue the journey with the strength and support of her new found friends and her growing aspirations.

About the Artwork

Aspirations is a watermedia artwork composed of watercolor and gouache on Fabriano Artistico 300 lb. watercolor paper.

I created a small value sketch prior to starting the painting. I began the painting by choosing my primary color scheme and laid down a loosely painted base for subsequent layers of contrasting and harmonizing colors.

Bio

I was born in Salem and currently live near Salem bordering a wetland reserve that we own and manage. I attended Oregon College of Education majoring in art and minoring in psychology. Although I left formal art college education early, I continued to attend art classes from various college professors and instructors, and well-known artists. I have been an active member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon since 1993 and a member of the Salem Art Association, and International Society of Acrylic Painters. I have exhibited in many shows and have a piece of artwork in the Art in Agriculture permanent collection at Oregon State University.

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