

Peace'n Me Together
Mixed Media Collage
\$480

Kara Pilcher

Artist's Statement

“Peace'n Me Together” started with a self-portrait I painted more than thirty years ago when I attended one of my first art classes. I can't recall if the assignment was to use a mirror or our driver's license and paint that flattering photo. I do remember my children's reactions when I brought it home... “mean and scary!” I hung it up to remind them “Mommy is watching, you'd better behave!”. I wanted to use a portrait of myself because I couldn't help but compare my view of life now that I'm well into middle age to teenager Jade's view. However this was painted when skin was smooth, hair thicker, without spectacles perched on my nose and my hand was steady, yet it is still me. And, who am I?

The book inspired me to reflect on my history; those people and experiences that have formed who I have become, mingled with who I've been through these many years. Just as Jade grew and evolved through challenges, sometimes painful, when she was transplanted into a new environment, I think the same is true with me. The experiences most transformative are when I step outside of my comfort zone. Often that zone means just being with unknown people or even familiar people with whom I need to allow myself to be more straightforward, honest, and even vulnerable. I learn from others as I get to know them and meet myself in them.

Using 2 prints of the original portrait, I collaged one with faces of all sorts of people. The second, I cut into strips, layering them so the variety of people is discovered. We absorb something from people we've met and taken the time to understand. With understanding comes peace.

Bio

One might guess that I would major in art, after growing up in Chula Vista, CA in a family that valued creating...sewing, remodeling, furniture building, metal work, etc. But, no, I earned a BA in Literature and Spanish and a Masters in the Art of Teaching at Lewis and Clark College. I taught high school Spanish in Portland Public Schools for 10 years. Once I had a home of my own and was staring at blank walls, I enrolled in a watercolor class at the local community college. That eventually led to serving as President of the Watercolor Society of Oregon, becoming a Signature Member of Northwest Watercolor Society, experimenting with handpulled printmaking, and teaching various watercolor classes and workshops. I am represented at Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, rentalsalesgallery.com and Lunaria Gallery, lunariagallery.com in Silverton, OR.

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