

CAROLYN JOHNSON-BELL (LEHL)

We are All Just Chocolate

Collage, colored pencil, printed text

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Contact artist for sales information, no prints available

BIO

Carolyn Johnson-Bell (Lehl), was born and raised in Portland, Oregon; graduated with honors from PSU, and is the mother of two grown daughters. Carolyn's spent all of her life in creative pursuits such as drawing, painting, embroidery and gardening. She worked as a self-employed muralist and decorative painting for over two decades.

Now living in Salem Oregon, she divides her time between gardening for herself and her clients, and pursuing her career in fine arts. Her work can be seen at Lunaria Gallery in Silverton, Bush Barn Gallery in Salem, Oregon.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My piece is named "*We are All Just Chocolate*" and was inspired by the quote from page 54 of *Born a Crime*. What really got to me was his oversimplification of color. As he explains it, I could really picture it.

My piece depicts three silhouettes representing each of the characters in the excerpt depicted: a man for the father, a young man for Trevor, and a woman for his mother. Each is made to look like a different kind of chocolate, since that's the image that came to mind when I read it. I sketched the images, cut them out, and then used them as patterns to cut out an internet image of three chocolate bars. Part of each image has a red-orange wrapper that is partially torn-down to reveal the chocolate, as if it's ready to bite into. I colored in the legs and heads to match the rest of the figures and to complete the illusion that they are indeed: Chocolate!

I wanted to play up the "aqua-turquoise disparity", so the background, is a gradual melding of the two colors. I happily used colored pencil to scribble and blend many different shades of blues and greens. I even Googled "Aqua", and "Turquoise" to get a better idea of the differences. The funny part was, according to Google, Aqua is more blue than green and turquoise has more green than blue. But according to my pencil names, they are the opposite! As an artist, I always thought I knew my colors. "I see how you made that mistake, you're not the first."

Thank you for the opportunity to learn and grow.