

## **KATHLEEN HANEY**

*Lens of Prejudice*

Watercolor on Cradled Aquabord

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### **BIO**

As long as I can remember I have loved observing, drawing and creating. Surrounded by the beauty of God's creations and man's designs, it is an awesome and humbling experience to express these in my own images and by my own hands.

I taught high school art for over 25 years and continue to teach adults. Having the good fortune to receive instruction from some of the leading watercolorists in the US, I enjoy sharing what I have learned with others.

### **ARTIST STATEMENT**

*Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah describes the life of a bi-racial child born in South Africa under apartheid. Even though apartheid no longer exists in South Africa, around the world people are still judged by the color of their skin.

My painting, *Lens of Prejudice* depicts how many people, both knowingly and unknowingly, view others based on only their skin color. Many see the darker skin tones as "bad" or "trouble". Some see a future of criminality. If a light-skinned boy is running, he must be a runner. If a dark-skinned boy is running, he must be fleeing. Trevor's childhood experience was filled with struggles as he navigated his way through the expectations of others based on the color of his skin.

In the painting, *Lens of Prejudice*, the faces are the same in shape and features - changes were made to the skin color, eye color and hair only. The vertical bars that overlay the darker skinned children represent the "pre-judgement" of "trouble", "bad", "crime". The bars fade as the children represented become lighter skinned. The red of their shirts represents the red blood we all have, regardless of skin color; the commonalities we all share. The blue outside the "lens" represents freedom and endless possibilities; "the sky's the limit."

"We could learn a lot from a box of crayons; some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull while others are bright, some have weird names and all are different colors but they have all learned to live together in the same box". Robert Fulghum, author, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*