

## **La Reina de Portland (The Queen of Portland)**

Acrylic

**\$475**

### **Merren Garland**

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

I like making powerful images and using dynamic colors. I create texture with acrylic gesso on the surface of the painting, and then apply layers of acrylic paint.

My vision of Jade, the heroine of Renee Watson's [Piecing Me Together](#), developed from her **heritage**, her **place**, and her **evolving strength and resilience**.

As Jade struggled, and triumphed and found her place in Portland's art world, I had a vision of a spirit in her, "La Reina de Portland". Transcending, becoming a strong talented young woman: the Queen of Portland.

*Viva La Reina!*

#### **Bio**

Merren has a BFA in painting from University of New Hampshire.

Her first job was as an illustrator and magazine art director with the *US Army Intelligence and Security Command* in Washington, DC. She went on to open two art galleries in the D.C. area.

Merren and her family moved to McMinnville, OR where she painted and showed, was involved in running 3 galleries: Artistree, Currents Gallery and Dan Wheeler's Fire's Eye Ceramics, and taught art in area schools and privately.

After 10 years, she and husband Jim moved back to their native NH. While in New Hampshire, she began a series of daily paintings of the Atlantic Ocean, minutes from her door, titled "*One Hundred Views of the Sea*" and "*Brushes with History*," a series of over 20 works inspired by very old, well-used paintbrushes discovered in her Grandfather's barn in NH. She initiated "*Drawing Together*" at the Rye NH Library as an antidote to isolation for seniors in rural NH.

Very happy to move back to Oregon, Merren lives in Salem and paints still lifes, landscapes, seascapes and in Wildlife Refuges where she and Jim scan for birds and other wildlife. She loves drawing and painting animals and waterfowl, especially Orange Boy the cat and her Scottie, Mungo.

She works in acrylic, watercolor, gouache, print-making and enjoys drawing with the *Salem Sketchers* on their monthly sketch-outs. Merren has won top prizes at the Oregon State Fair in the Fine Arts Division and is a member of Salem Art Association, and Artists in Action.

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