

MERREN GARLAND

Mothers and Sons

Acrylic paint on board

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Contact artist for sales.

BIO

Merren has a BFA in painting from the University of New Hampshire. 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 Kensington, MD, Sugar & Frichtl Gallery and Kensington Gallery.

Merren moved to Oregon, relocating from Rye, N.H. in 2013, when her first grandchild was born in Salem. While in Rye, she began a series of daily plein aire paintings of the Atlantic Ocean, minutes from her door, titled “One Hundred Views of the Sea”. Her studio paintings, “Brushes with History”, is an award-winning series of over 20 works inspired by very old, well-used paintbrushes discovered in her Grandfather’s barn. At the Rye Town Library she initiated and led a still ongoing ‘Drawing Together’ group, with a weekly inspirational newsletter.

Merren paints Oregon landscapes, especially Wildlife Refuges and their inhabitants, en Plein Air. She works in acrylic, watercolor, acrylic, gouache, printmaking and enjoys drawing with the Salem Sketchers on their monthly sketch-outs.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Trevor Noah’s book, *Born a Crime* was eye-opening. When I think of Africa, exotic animals come to mind: Elephants, lions, giraffes. But Noah’s book reveals a different, realistic view of urban South Africa during and after Apartheid, replete with poverty and abuse and little opportunity for education, advancement, or employment. He created his own opportunities, using his intelligence, talent, and ambition. Taking inspiration and encouragement from his mother, Noah was able to escape the hardships of his early life and found international success.

I took my inspiration from the old Orange Volkswagen Trevor’s mother drove in his childhood, imagining they might have taken a field trip to an Animal Reserve to show Trevor the African countryside outside of their urban area.