

Finding Her Voice

Watercolor on textured canvas

\$100

Susan Hartson

Artist's Statement

Gazing Ahead

Finding Her Voice

A Hope and a Future

In Piecing Me Together, Jade displays a quiet determination and hope for the future. As the narrative reveals Jade's unspoken thoughts, I saw a great deal of insight and wisdom in how Jade views the actions of others in the story, especially those of her mentor, Maxine. Jade's main desire throughout the story, is to go on the Study Abroad program; yet when given the opportunity to speak up about her desire, she holds back and doesn't ask about it. As the story progresses, Jade becomes more vocal about her thoughts and desires.

In Finding Her Voice, I chose to symbolize Jade's strength in a subtle under layer spiral pattern of Dwennimmen (Ram's Horns), an African symbol for strength and humility. Jade is shown looking forward to the future with hope in her eyes, leaving a dead end of silence behind her.

Bio

Surrounded by capable artists in my birth family as well as the family I married into, it was easy to allow insecurity about my own artistic ability to intensify. I directed my creative instincts toward sewing and crafts, which had specific instructions. Now, in my sixth decade, I am emerging from those mental barriers, discovering that I CAN paint.

Parenting six children, three of our own, and three fosters, led to a need for a time out. I took a night class from Marciano Martinez - my first experience with watercolor - and I was hooked! I learned the basics, in addition to being challenged to paint creatively, rather than simply copying what I saw, an ongoing struggle.

With retirement, I now have more opportunity to develop a personal style in watercolor, by taking workshops and viewing other artist's work. I enjoy trying to discern how a painting effect has been done.

The transparency of watercolor, the ability to layer colors and still see what's underneath, pulls me in. To watch a painting develop, almost by itself at times, is magical. The paint, liquid and moldable, flowing and blending in unexpected ways, creating its own textures and patterns, reflects what God's Spirit continues to do in my own heart and life.

Email: sehartson@gmail.com