

SUSAN HARTSON

Praising Jesus

Collage in Watercolor and POSCA pens on textured canvas

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Contact artist for sales and reproduction information

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! This was where I learned the basics, in addition to being challenged to paint creatively, rather than simply copying what I saw, an ongoing struggle.

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.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My inspiration for this collage, *Praising Jesus*, was this quote from *Born A Crime*, describing riding with his mother on page 74: "We only moved forward and we always moved fast, and by the time the law and everyone else came around we were already miles down the road, flying along the freeway in a bright-orange piece-of-shit Volkswagen with the windows down and Jimmy Swaggart praising Jesus at the top of his lungs."

Because Trevor Noah is a comedian, and this quote reflects his humor, I chose to use a whimsical lighthearted style in creating this collage, showing Trevor and his mother racing along, leaving traces of their joy and personality behind.