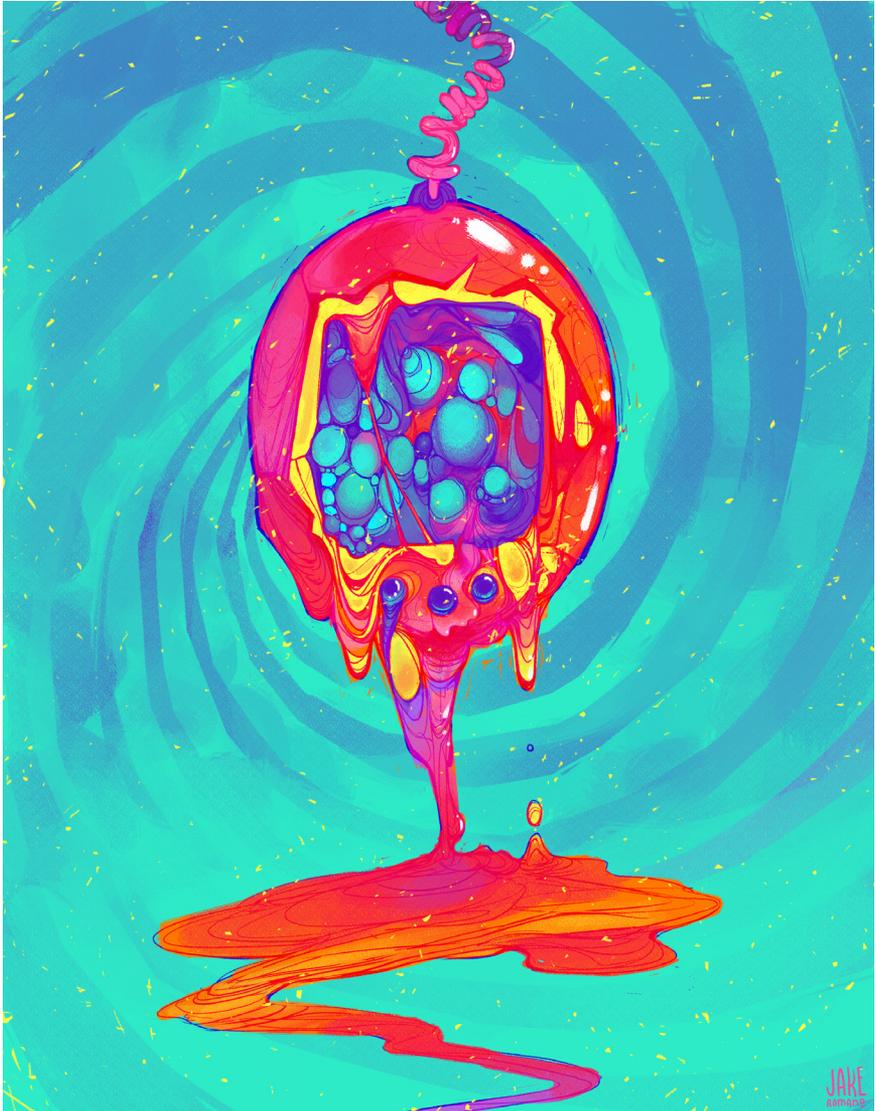


CREATIVE GUTS

NINE



FALL 2021

MARK
LAWRENCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Forward: Nostalgia
3	Durkish Delights Design Co.
4 - 5	Michelle McElroy
6	Megan Campbell
7	Jake Romano
8 - 9	Jren Blackwell
10	Scott Kuckler
11	Matt Wyatt
12 - 13	Becky Barsi
14 - 15	Jessica Danger
16	Dan Pegg
17	Jackie Hanson
18 - 19	Brandy M. Patterson
20 - 21	Laura Harper Lake

NOSTALGIA

Hello!

It's been an odd time for the world during the last year and half, and creatives are continually finding ways to process our new landscape. We believe harnessing sentimental associations of the past in creativity can help makers get through the tougher times the world has been experiencing of late. While the Creative Guts team knew we wanted to focus on a theme related to time for this edition of our zine, it wasn't until our recent interview with digital artist, Jake Romano, that we realized Nostalgia was just the theme we were longing to pose to the world. (Go listen to Jake's episode to hear why we were inspired by him!)

Nostalgia: a sentimental longing or wistful affection for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations.

It can be vulnerable to look back to the past and share those memories through creative expression, so we're celebrating artists and writers who are brave enough to put their art and nostalgia out into the world. This zine features art and writing from twelve different makers, in an array of mediums including: oil painting, photography, collage, chalk and oil pastels, mixed media, digital art, and poetry. The creatives featured in this issue were selected with the help of guest juror, Mike Durkee. In addition to serving on the Creative Guts Board of Directors, Mike is a muralist, graphic artist, and owner of Durkish Delights Design Co. Mike is also the star of episode 15 of the podcast. Thank you, Mike, for your help putting together this issue of the Creative Guts Zine!

Learn more about Creative Guts on the web at www.CreativeGutsPodcast.com and please say "hello" on Instagram or Facebook!

So with that, show us your creative guts!



Laura Harper Lake
Co-Founder + Co-Host



Sarah Wrightsman
Co-Founder + Co-Host

Durkish Delights Design Co.



Good to Get Home, Digital Collage

My grandfather on my mother's side gave me a huge collection of old family photos from the 30s and 40s.

That side of my family is big and complicated. It's the type of family where there's a little bit of tension between a lot of them and nobody hangs out like they used to when I was a kid. And that's just the way it is. Grudges. Politics. Distance. Not necessarily things that tear a family apart. They just sort of slowly help it decay.

I've made a bunch of pieces like this. This is my favorite so far. It's like I'm attempting to make friends with past generations of my family as an alternative to the current situation. So far things are going pretty well.

Alton, NH

www.durkishdelights.com
Instagram: @DurkishDelights

MICHELLE MCELROY



Pier Arcade, Oil on canvas, 8" x 10"

As someone who grew up in the 80's, pretty much nothing beat the sights and sounds of being in an arcade. I am lucky enough to live by a few old school arcades that are exactly the same as when I went to them as a kid; I get the same thrill (and without having to ask for quarters from my parents) going to these places and playing games.

Center Harbor, NH

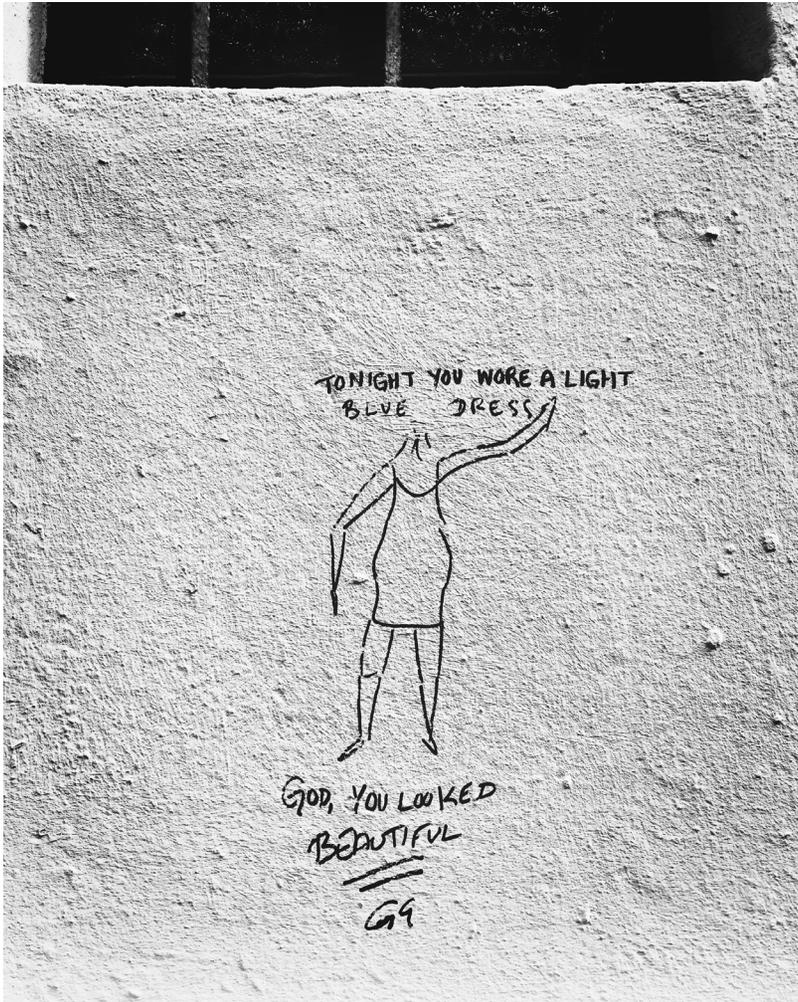
www.michellemcelroy.com
Instagram: @michellemcelroyart



Papa Gino's, Oil on canvas, 18" x 24"

I gravitate towards painting scenes of quiet moments with strong use of light and shadow. These pieces are related to nostalgia of growing up in the 1980's. Simple details like an old phone or business or familiar pizza shop interior can instantly connect people with similar memories of that time. I love connecting with people in this way.

MEGAN CAMPBELL

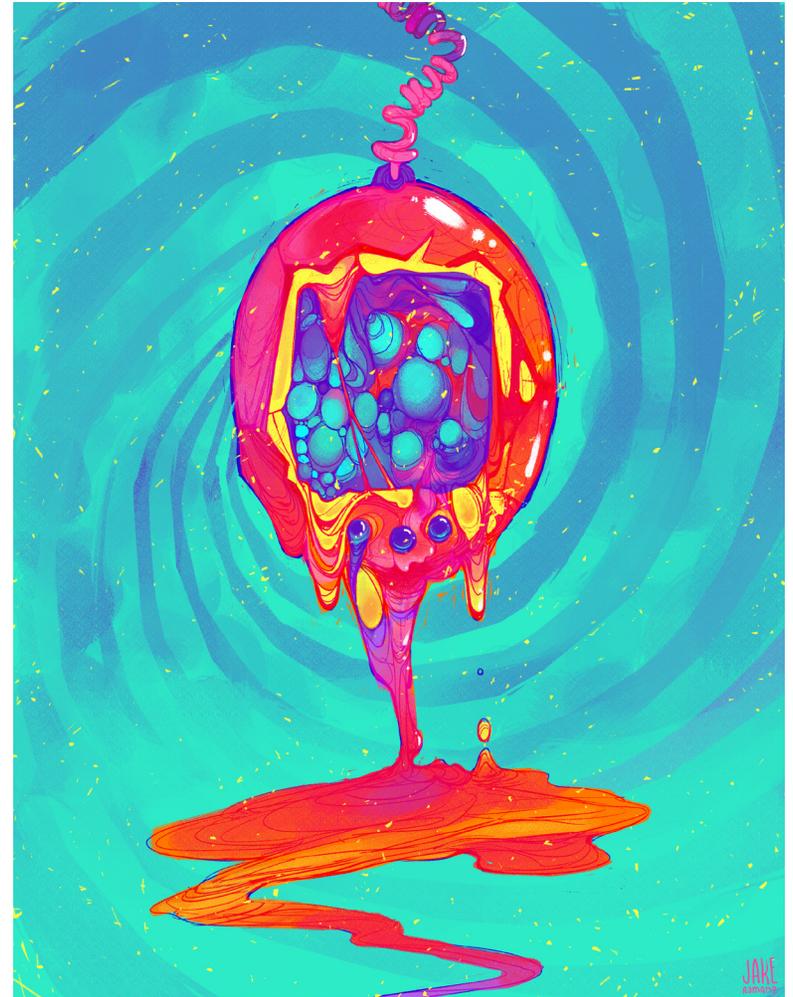


Light Blue Dress, Lyon 2017, Photography

I am fascinated by the words people choose to write on walls. *Light blue dress* feels like a melancholic longing for a specific moment and feeling.

Edinburgh, Scotland Ghostcardsbymegacles.bigcartel.com
Instagram: @ghostcardsbymegacles

JAKE ROMANO



Take Care of Me, Digital illustration, 8.5" x 11"

Lately I've been glancing backwards at the things that used to bring me joy. As a kid I used to adore colorful, noisy, weird toys. These things have been left behind for so long I picture them now as decaying, taking on a new strange sort of life, or waiting to be loved again. I miss that time in my life very much.

Hawthorne, NJ

www.jakeromano.com
Instagram: @jakeromanoart

JREN BLACKWELL

I've always lived near the New England seacoast, and often went on family trips to the beach as a kid. There was so much to do there—you could swim, climb rocks, collect shells, draw in the sand with sticks... Tide pools were like their own tiny worlds, and if you were lucky, you might find a school of minnows, or a tiny crab lurking under a rock. As adults, we tend not to explore our natural environments, because everything seems so familiar once you've been to so many similar places. In *Sand Castles*, I wanted to capture that exhilaration of exploration, and of building something that's truly yours.

West Roxbury, MA

www.jrendesigns.com
Instagram: @rabenfedercraft

Sand Castles

Ducking our way into a shaded tunnel
That leads to another realm
Away from the prying eyes of parents
And plates of disgusting vegetables

In the salty beach air, we fly together
Skirts billow, hats fly off, and away
Stretching our legs out to dig pits in the wood chips
When it's time to come down

We build our lives up like soft sand castles
Picking up memories for our collections—
Sea glass, shells, and rocks
Running past an old pair of sunglasses, once loved—
Now worn, forgotten

We engrave our initials into the sand
Draw smiley faces, and giant fish
Try to guess how far the wave will roll up the shore
(If you guess wrong, you get wet!)

The creatures in tide pools are fun to see
Crabs like to scuttle away
Making their own little homes in
Miniature oceans, small and safe

Sometimes life's like building a sand castle
So soft and fragile, you don't know
When it will collapse and you'll have to start over

But life can be like a fresh towel
Warm and dry, a protective blanket
To wrap oneself in
After the day's adventures are done

SCOTT KUCKLER



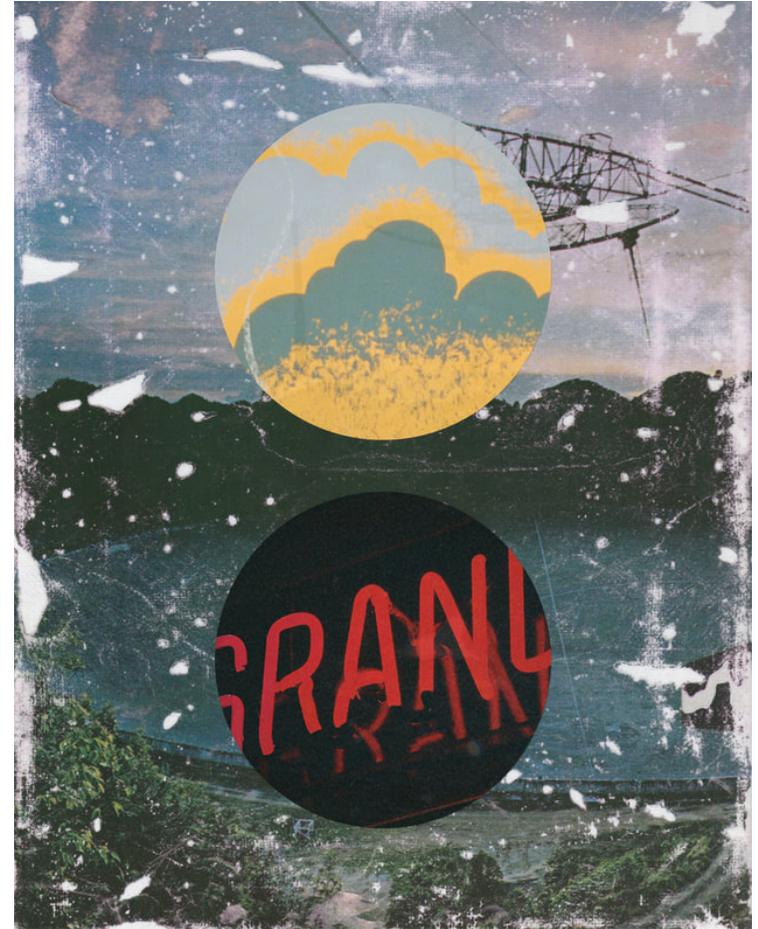
Amanda Raven, Large format, silver gelatin photography

This photograph was created using a large format camera with analog film developed and printed in my darkroom. I've gone back to my roots, and the roots of photography as we know it where images are not created haphazardly but with direct intentionality requiring knowledge and experience with the medium to be able to create them.

Exeter, NH

www.scottkuckler.com
Instagram: @cheshirescott

MATT WYATT



Lookin' for love in all the wrong places, Collage, 8" x 10"

I'm drawn to recycled scraps that evoke memories of my childhood and upbringing. I try to use that kind of imagery in my work as a means to memorialize the past while looking ahead to the future. I appreciate the faded aesthetic, worn paper, torn edges. I think the contrast of recycled items laid out in a modern design is interesting. I'll stop making them when I've had enough.

Rochester, NH

www.mattwyattart.com
Instagram: @yeahwyatt87

BECKY BARSİ



GMC Refrigerator Trucks, Watercolor, gouache, and ink, 10" x 14"

My father had a collection of matchbox cars that he played with as a child that my sister and I inherited. He shared these with us when we were kids, and I have so many memories of playing with these toy cars. All banged up and loved, the lead paint chipping from decades of being dragged through dirt and rocks, or thrown across the living room floor. These are priceless heirlooms.

Lee, NH

www.beckybarisi.com
Instagram: @ArtsyBarsi



Jaguar MK10, Watercolor, gouache, and ink, 10" x 14"



LeMans Racer, Watercolor, gouache, and ink, 10" x 14"

JESSICA DANGER

When my partner and I met, we both came to each other with a bunch of resentments and cute kids. We found a way to merge two lives and two families and even though that was sometimes challenging, it was so meaningful that we both remember it fondly - a little bobbing buoy out at sea to guide us forward. I believe that there is meaning to be made in even the smallest moments. Good art comes from being present and learning to seek out meaning around you, however that presents itself. I miss those early moments, and I'll soon miss these too, but I can still see it for what it is, write about it as I experience it, and then show it the door.

Mission Viejo, CA

Crooked Things

I am trying to make thrown away things Beautiful again.
No matter,
I can still shoot
crooked arrows
straight.

What does it feel like
to have your body memorized
with time?
Today,
I am
every age
I have ever been.

I am trying to make crooked things
beautiful again,
Sharpening my bicuspid by gnashing
the leftover gristle of other men's muscle,
burrowing and burying,
hiding what's mine.

Hobbling holidays together with families splintered
Like Easter baskets
built with the twine from other things
meant to hold treasure found in the wild,
shared at a table built in the night
while others celebrate.

DAN PEGG



Remembrance, Film photography. 4" x 6"

The remaining ruins of this Massachusetts estate include an isolated memorial garden. Erected by the widowed owner of the property to memorialize her deceased husband, this crumbling temple serves as a decadent symbol of old wealth from over a century ago. Despite the passing of years and social class disparity, The Garden of Sweet Remembrance still brought me back to a time where I can nearly feel the universal sense of grief likely felt by the widow. There is comfort in the decay and the surrounding reclaiming of nature. Reduced to bare bones, there is hope for reunion, a return to happier times, somewhere beyond the entropy.

Providence, Rhode Island

Instagram: @danpegg_

JACKIE HANSON



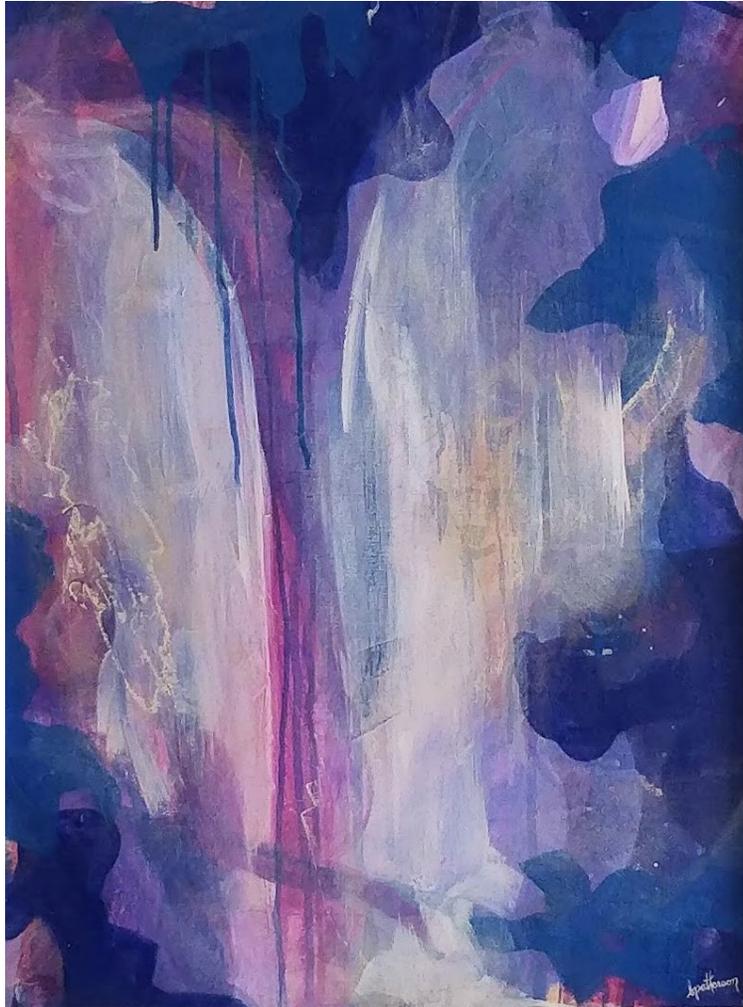
In Between The Field And The Farm,
Chalk and oil pastels on pastelbord, 16" x 20"

The world, for me, is exciting, whether I find myself somewhere conventionally beautiful or more mundane. Having grown up in the rural Lakes Region of New Hampshire, I reference the woods and small farms I call home in my work. I paint by composing images taken in various moments of my life into a scene that suggests narrative. The specificity of my memory becomes a catalyst for others with a broader sense of nostalgia, specifically for old New England and early childhood. Many of my pieces reference memory of my grandparents' farm in Belmont, but my most recent, *In Between The Field And The Farm*, holds the most meaning. While celebrating the memory of days spent freely running the fields, it also captures the sorrow of those days being past with the shadow of my late younger cousin. That best encapsulates the meaning of nostalgia for me; a celebration of what is no longer.

Belmont, NH

www.jackiehansonart.com
Instagram: @jackiehansonart

BRANDY M. PATTERSON

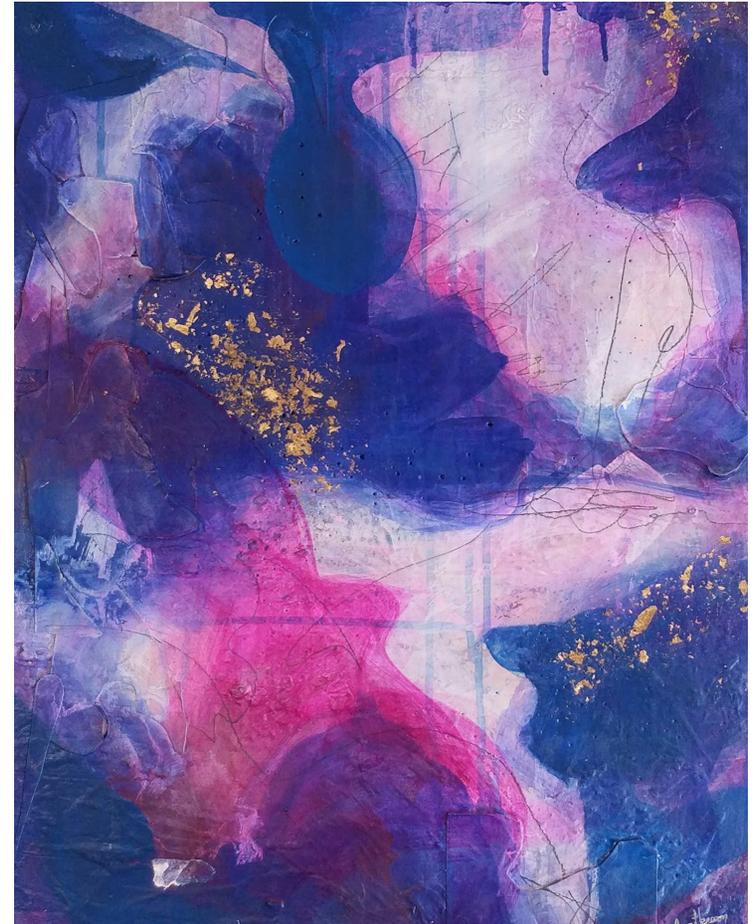


Cathedral, Acrylic Mixed Media on Canvas, 18" x 24"

Manchester, NH

www.bmpatterson.com
Instagram: @brandympatterson

Growing up in Vermont, I have many childhood memories of rambling through the woods behind my home pretending I was exploring a fantastical world that had largely been influenced by C.S Lewis, Grimm's Fairy Tales and Tolkien. Today, I am still fond of the sights, sounds and smells of the forest and any time spent there makes me nostalgic for those childhood days. My paintings are to take you on a journey into a vibrantly colored woodland. These paintings are apart of my new series called Inhale Exhale, a body of work that explored the feelings of stillness and gentle freedom found while I am out amongst the trees. I chose a sunset colored palette and used a variety of mixed media to develop the history of each painting.



Stars in Pickle Jars, Acrylic Mixed Media on canvas, 16" x 20"

LAURA HARPER LAKE

Playing softball was big activity that I did with my dad when I was a kid. I recall many sensory elements from these memories of practices and games, rather than the actual visuals. I can't fully see it in my mind, but I can smell the freshly cut grass; hear a hum in the air from crickets and bugs; recall a summer sun blinding us if we were unfortunate enough to be facing it; the metallic 'thwack' of ball connecting with bat, that reverberated in my hands when I was lucky enough to hit the ball; and most importantly, I can hear my father's voice calling to me from the sidelines. His coaching, cheering, and teasing are the memories I will hold onto forever.



Slugger, Digital painting, 11" x 13.5"

Exeter, NH

www.artfulharperstudios.com
Instagram: @ArtfulHarperStudios



Creative Guts is a nonprofit on a mission to awaken creativity within people of all ages by curating an environment for connection, collaboration, and the opportunity for gutsy creatives to share their stories with the world.

We do this through programs, zines, events, and a podcast that is focused on the pursuit of creativity. Podcast episodes are available to listen on all major podcast platforms and our website.

www.CreativeGutsPodcast.com

Instagram + Facebook: @CreativeGutsPodcast