

## Artist Statement

Linda O'Neill

My paintings reflect my desire to have a voice in this world when finding words to express myself doesn't come easy. I have struggled with anxiety and migraines most of my life so I am constantly searching for the "lightness of being"...the ability to overcome fear and pain and transcend to a better place. Light vs darkness, fulfillment vs loss, tranquility vs anger are all essential elements in my work.

I discovered art at an early age and went on to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1993. I occasionally rummage through a box of my childhood creations and enjoy the freedom and expression of that younger self. Over the years, I have been influenced by contemporary artists such as Richard Diebenkorn, Nathan Olivera, Franz Klein, Joan Mitchell, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Cy Twombly to name a few.

I work very intuitively and expressively using color, text and collage to expose what is raw and authentic. Painting with acrylics on both canvas and paper, I incorporate collage, paint pen, oil pencil, caran d'ache crayon and ink. Working layer upon layer, always listening to music, I rotate the canvas as I go until I'm happy with the progression. I make a point to let go of critical thinking, preferring to let my subconscious run the paintbrush.

I love to hear what people see in my work and what it makes them think and feel. Most of all, I truly hope they are inspired and ultimately uplifted by it.