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Was Milessa Murphy Stewart born an artist or did she develop into an artist? Maybe the answer is unimportant at this point of her life, but she still wonders. Sitting on the floor as a young child, even before knowing how to read, you would find her sketching the cartoons of Snoopy and Charlie Brown. So it was no wonder that at the age of 12 when Milessa saw the commercial for an Art University, she immediately jotted down the telephone number. Being an only child, she had already developed a very independent nature. Milessa called the University and gave them her address and eagerly watched the mailbox for something to come. As soon as it arrived, she filled out the application and submitted it along with her drawings, mailed it and then completely forgot about it. Months later, Milessa received the news that she was accepted. She was jumping for joy. Needless to say, her mother was not. It never dawned on her that she was too young; all she cared about was becoming a real artist.

Milessa became a serial entrepreneur all incorporating creativity, unfortunately, not that of paint on canvas. In 2008, as her mother lay in her bed dying, her last request of Milessa was "I want you to promise me you will sell your businesses and get back to your painting. I am sorry I did not take your art seriously". Milessa's respect and love her mother lives on, so she has set out to make her proud.

Milessa is an intuitive painter. It's her ongoing collection of experiences, apropos of everything up until now; transporting her viewers into a colorful, energetic and happy place. This is her calling! Being your own curator and collector of her art gives you a unique style that others will not have but want. Not to mention, her art will inspire thought and questions, engaging the viewer to think and learn about the subject matter. It certainly will kick start a worthwhile dialogue between anyone enjoying it.

Narrative from Milessa: *"Having painted over 300 pieces in the two periods of my painting history has been the joy of my life. 124 of them are watercolors spanning 28 years. 185 of them are oils completed in the last four years. My series has become much larger, more detailed and broader in scope.*

I am currently working on a series called, Dreamscapes (c. 2017). They are impressionistic paintings that incorporate a dab of fiction, maybe some facts, a bit of humor, and a lot of color to create visible thinking in a world where there is little time to daydream. They are energetic and quirky with clues to a playful story. Interestingly, Dreamscapes transitioned organically from my series on the #MMSProject52.

My passion for history has influenced me such that I incorporate historical detail into these series. The magical reality of the past is far removed from the mundane truth of my West Texas upbringing. My paintings are like writing a story only with strokes of bold color. Collectors are amused by the narratives, so I include a short story with each of them. The narrative begins with "What was I thinking?"

I am dedicated to my work and that work is contained within the four corners of my canvas. My friend and soul mate Claude Monet who, although dead in this world is alive in my heart, said you need three things to be a painter: an iron will, the ability to work like a locomotive, and indifference to everything but the canvas. These traits I possess in abundance.

As a professional artist, I paint all day long in my studio with no phones or interference. Painting is my profession and passion. I need this solitude and I value it. But, my intent and the execution of my art are not for my sole enjoyment but for the enjoyment of others. I create it to be valued and appreciated. The aim is to be transported into a colorful, energetic and happy place, create inspiration, and educate on the subject matter. My works are intended to instigate a worthwhile dialogue between those enjoying it. As a painter, this is how I speak."