

TOMOKO SUZUKI

Company name: Bosatsu Factory Art Studio

Residence and studio: Kennmore, WA

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Website: <http://bosatsufactory.com>

Social Media:

<https://www.instagram.com/bosatsufactoryart/>

Some of my works are available at

KOBO Shop & Gallery

Capitol Hill Store—814 E Roy St

Seattle, WA 98102

International District Store—604 S Jackson St. Seattle, WA 98104

<https://koboseattle.com/>



Artist Statement:

The plump figures, which I call “Chubbies”, are the predominant icons in my art and my visual interpretation of the Bodhisattvas. Bodhisattvas (aka Bosatsu in Japanese) carry out altruistic practices to achieve enlightenment and are compassionate beings who postpone their entry into Nirvana to lead others toward enlightenment. There are many visual representations around the world throughout history. The figures I create are my interpretation of the Bodhisattvas. My figures represent the joy and strength of ordinary human beings in the midst of struggles and sufferings of life. While I create (by way of sculpting and/or drawing) images of these figures one at a time, I also explore the relationship between multiple figures within a composition. These compositions embody the drama of converting suffering into a state of absolute happiness. In my sculptures and drawings with multiple figures, I put a focus on the beauty of human struggles to overcome suffering collectively. Ultimately, the purpose of my art is to deliver a positive message that each ordinary being possesses the power to transform one’s life and environment for the better, regardless of external circumstances. My goal has been to create art that can invoke joy and hope.

More about myself:

I was born and raised in Ibaraki, Japan. At the age of nineteen, I moved to Peoria, Illinois, to live with my uncle and learn English. After a year of studying in a local community college, I discovered my love of drawing and decided to study fine art. I encountered printmaking at Bradley University, earned a BFA degree in printmaking, and earned an MFA at California State University Long Beach. During my graduate program, I explored **printmaking and creating sculptures and installation art**. Printmaking taught me to focus on the process, create multiples and variations, and be versatile in my creative process. Currently, I work heavily with clay creating ceramic sculptures and functional wares. The pieces on display in the Spotlight are hand-built unique sculptures. On July 19 and 16, I will be an artist vendor at the Summer Art Market outside BIMA. There, you will be able to see my cast sculpture. During the Covid lockdown, I learned to create plaster mold and slip-cast ceramic sculptures. Learning this process has opened up ways for me to offer affordable and collectible fine art pieces at local art markets. I work on drawings and printmaking to create variations to offer at various venues. I also explore installation art. In October 2022, I was given an opportunity to create a window installation through Shunpike Arts. I used drawing and collaging as my main methods to complete this installation (see attached photos.)

I call my business “Bosatsu Factory Art Studio.” Due to my training as an artist in the media, such as printmaking to create prints, wheel throwing to create functional ceramic ware, and slip casting to create my figures, I am truly the “machine” behind my products. I am thrilled to exhibit my “gallery ready” pieces in the Spotlight exhibition.

I hope you enjoy my art. Thank you.

