

JULIE SEVILLA DRAKE



Fidalgo Island, WA (Anacortes area)

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Artist Statement

Once upon a time I was asked by a famous artist why I am not a painter. My answer, "I don't know how to paint; I know how to sew." Therefore, I am a quiltmaker.

I grew up free-range in a small town, one of four rowdy kids. Ours was a rambunctious household chock-full of books, music, puns, friends, and laughter. Unrestrained by four walls, our smarts and fun spilled outdoors into neighborhoods, fields, the library,

the schools, the woods. I still spend many hours outside each day—both in quiet meditation and in active play: walking, hiking, biking, being.

Indoors, I find joy in my studio making abstract quilts that are both serious and playful. A storyteller and poet as well as a visual artist, I use color, texture, and bold, robust shapes to tell thoughtful stories. For me, quilting is quite intense—physically and mentally—body and soul grooving together to make art.

Two of the works chosen for the BIMA Spotlight are personal reflections about the world right now.

“Bear Falls Apart” depicts Bear, despite her innate strength, being torn asunder.

“Sun/Saw: Red Flag for the Scorched Planet” shows how our rapidly warming climate has turned the sun into a saw—jagged, sharply honed teeth ripping through Earth’s resources, burning through forests and drying up rivers, causing wildfires and drought. Our scorched planet and its inhabitants are suffering a climate emergency. This is the red flag.

The other quilt “FAT CAT” is just for fun, a portrait of my cat, Bumbles.

Biography

After spending much of her life in Alaska, Julie Sevilla Drake now lives on rural Fidalgo Island, near the Deception Pass bridge. She is an active outdoorswoman, spending lots of time hiking, biking, kayaking, and camping. She began working full-time at age 16, as a truckstop waitress and continued working in service jobs until 2017 when she began seriously pursuing a mid-life career as a visual artist and writer. Julie Sevilla Drake has earned a BA in French, and an MFA in Creative Writing/Poetry.

In 2015, Drake won an Alaskan Emerging Artist award, and since then her work has been shown in private collections, galleries, and museums nationally as well as internationally. Some regional galleries and museums that have displayed her quilts are Smith and Vallee Gallery, Edison, WA; Penn Cove Pottery Gallery, Coupeville, WA; Schack Art Center, Everett, WA; Washington Convention Center, Seattle WA; Pacific Northwest Fiber Arts Museum, La Conner, WA; Museum of Northwest Art, La Conner, WA; Anacortes Arts Festival Juried Fine Art Gallery, Anacortes, WA; Anchorage Museum at Rasmussen Center, Anchorage, AK; UAF Museum of the North, Fairbanks, AK; UAA Hugh McPeck Gallery, Anchorage, AK.

Julie Sevilla Drake
Additional new works



OWL

35" x 35" Copyright 2023



DANCE CONTEST AT THE SALTY DAWG

77" x 77" Copyright 2023