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SANDI D'ALESSANDRO

A series of paintings that captures moments when expressing personal creativity, exploring and recording relationships, dreaming and wishing, finding inspiration in nature, and creating visual memories. . .

In the world of art, the artistic journey is an intuitive process of concealing and revealing, adding and subtracting, until the desired result emerges from the layers. The bold mark, a broken circle and scattered buttons represents the family unit dissolving in our society today. I see mark making as a way to express writing in my paintings. To me, the mark or brush stroke is not limited to representational but rather it is how I communicate an idea. I have combined pattern, textures and writing to create my recent series, *Paper Dolls a Quest for Identity*. In this series I wanted to explore a topic that expressed my personal creativity, recording relationships, dreams and wishes that would become ongoing themes. I have used the visual placement of mark making implements to explore the juxtaposition of shapes and to denote signs of chaos. A palette of earthen tones of russet, wheat, red, charcoal, and sage in layers, produces a rich surface from which ethereal, shadowlike forms materialize. Through a rich vocabulary, an inherent sense of rhythm, line, composition, and a spontaneous freedom impart a poetic, mystical, and cerebral effect. I continue to aim for a spiritual harmony that reveals insight and integrity. A background as a secondary art teacher, graphic designer and interior decorator has influenced these mixed media paintings.

I spend a great deal of time developing the idea, starting with thumbnail sketches and evolving the abstract through many small pencil studies. I work primarily with acrylics. This medium allows for versatility in creating textures, transparent and opaque effects, which I scratch and lift off to unveil the images that the painting communicates with my feelings and sensitivities. This artistic process encourages play, taking risks and exploration as part of the art making. My goal is to achieve an overall painterly quality that allows the viewer to continue reaching beyond the obvious, to find meaning each time they view the painting.

EDUCATION:

- Masters of Art and Liberal Studies, Hollins University, with a painting emphasis
- Longwood University, Art, 1970-1974
- Graduate classes at the University of Virginia, University of Tennessee, Arrowmont School of the Arts, and James Madison University

SELECTED RECENT EXHIBITS 2000-Present:

- One Woman Exhibit, Hollins University, February-March 2007
- One Woman Exhibit, The Logan Gallery, North Cross School, January-February 2007
- American Watercolor Society 136th 137th, and 138th Annual International Exhibition, 2003-05 New York, NY
- National Watercolor Society 82nd, 83rd, 85th, Exhibition, 2002, 2003, 2005, Brea, CA
- Southern Watercolor Society 2006, Richmond, VA
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition, 2003,2004, Bethesda, MD

- The Virginia Highland Festival, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 , 2005, 2006 Abington, VA
- Virginia Watercolor Society Exhibition, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006
- Art Museum of Western Virginia, City Show, 2002, 2006 Roanoke, VA
- Virginia Museum of Art, 2001, Richmond, VA

SELECTED RECENT AWARDS 2000-Present:

- National Watercolor Society 85th Annual Exhibition, 2006 Loa Ruth Sprung Award, Travel Show
- Southern Watercolor Society 2006 Award
- American Watercolor Society 138th International Exhibition, 2005, High Wind Metal Award, Travel Show
- American Watercolor Society 137th International Exhibition, 2004, Travel Show
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition 2003 Award and 2004 Award
- Henry Fukuhara Award in the 82nd National Watercolor Society International Exhibition 2002, Travel Show
- National Watercolor Society 83rd Annual 2003-'04 Travel Show
- Virginia Watercolor Society 2001 Award, 2002 Award, 2004 Award, 2005 Award, 2006 Award
- Award of Excellence, Art Museum of Western Virginia 2002
- Best-in-Show, Virginia Art Education Association Exhibition, 2002
- Award of Excellence, Virginia Highland Festival, 2001, Award of Merit, 2002, 2004 Award of Distinction 2003,
- Award of Distinction, Virginia Watercolor Society 2004
- Virginia Museum of Art, Third Place Award, 2001, Richmond, VA

SELECTED Workshops:

- Guest Artists for the National Watercolor Society's 139th International Exhibition, Fullerton CA
- Textures and Found Objects-"Making Their Mark"
- Painting without a Brush-"Pouring on the Color"
- Abstraction and Realism-"The Two Sisters a Matter of Balance"
- "The Ingredients that Make a Painting Yummy"

I am a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, American Watercolor Society, Virginia Watercolor Society, Baltimore Watercolor Society, and Among Who's Who in American Teachers. My work is nationally recognized and collected. In addition, I am an art teacher at Hidden Valley High School and The Studio School in Roanoke, Virginia. I am affiliated with Signature 9 Gallery, Roanoke, Virginia.