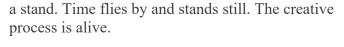
Casey Blanchard

I stand at the printing press armed with my tools, plates, paper, and inks. Like bees returning to the hive, images funnel into my well, ready to be transformed into tactile expression. Glistening globs of chemistry and pigment color the palette and tempt the bristles and the sticky smack of the brayer. The smell of the oils blending and the moment the brush tip touches the surface is enticing. Print by print, the image starts to breathe and to whisper "Here I am." My heart feels its rhythm - like the chrysalis, the essence shifts into shape. Pattern develops; color and values take





Some people are lucky to love their work. Perhaps they deliver babies, pound nails, cook exquisite meals, inspire students, or navigate the seas. I make art, interpret and share my experiences, through the art form of monoprinting. The process of monoprinting is engaging, surprising, fluid, and in the moment. It is unpredictable and fun.

It is not what is apparent that interests me. It is the mysteries behind the frayed veil, the torn edge, and the unspoken word that intrigue me. It is the hints at the essence of existence and the glimmers of truth that have drawn me into the illuminating world of the arts. My search for relevance is a bit like an archeological dig. I use my art, the paint and the printing press to examine. In the natural and manmade environment, I look for

clues, watch and listen. The eternal questions continue to compel me – who are we, what are we doing here, and does anyone out/up there care? Creative expression is the sanity check that allows my internal and external concerns to connect and feel grounded.

From the most mundane to the most significant matters – a bug, a feather, a fern, the rhythm of nature, a musical note, a mountain peak, or an idea – I present imagery to provoke inquiry. Opening the door to connection is what inspires me. The poet, Rumi, says "Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground."

Thank you for viewing my art.

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