

Jennifer Gleason

Stockholm Syndrome

Through fantastical imagery of angels, warriors, flying umbrellas, natural disasters and more, my artwork flirts with the dark light of the macabre where the ugly basks in the juxtaposed glow of the beautiful. Personal journal pages transform into surrealistic imagery bearing a deeply metaphorical message pertaining to the journey of the being through growth and change as well as the examination of the psyche. I play the role of the Scribe; documenting my experiences along the journey's path, inviting my audience to "See the Story Unheard." My work has a tender quality that gives depth and a feeling of nuance. Although the subject matter is of a very personal nature, I try to hold a little back in an effort to draw the viewer to question meaning to a greater extent.

I have begun to turn my gaze as an artist outward to play more of a role as "Healer" than Scribe to better help others. In doing so, I have embarked on a journey to create a series based on the very serious and epidemic disease, Addiction; a visual opera with the key players being the Addict, The Loved Ones of the Addict as well as the Addiction itself.

Stockholm Syndrome is but one of the pieces in the on-going Addiction Series and has a dual perspective. The subject in the cage can be viewed as either the Addict or the loved one of the Addict - either way a person held captive begins to identify with and grow sympathetic to their captor & unsympathetic & maybe resentful toward those who try to help. They would rather be trapped in their damaging and dangerous relationship with either the addict or addictive substance rather than free themselves and yet.... the cage is open.

Upon conceptualization, I began creating the image by photographing each element - in *Stockholm Syndrome*, this would be a cage with red backdrop, butterflies, a window, a sunset/sunrise, a skeleton key from various vantage points, a few textures and myself. Once the elements are photographed, I proceed with piecing them together digitally and adding a myriad of digital effects & free hand digital painting such as the shadows on her body. Once complete, I then print on Fine Art Cotton Rag paper and dry mount the image onto a hand aged wood panel. The final printed piece is then hand embellished with clear acrylic gel medium to further push the painterly aspect of my work and to add "the hand of the artist" thus infusing each piece with healing energy.