

Julie Quinn Biography

Julie's earliest childhood memories include chatting endlessly with the elderly Japanese gentleman who lived next door to her family. As the daughter of an Air Force serviceman, she was born and raised in Japan and lived off base. Her white-blond hair drew much attention, as most Japanese had never seen this color of hair before. She remembers freely roaming the neighborhood, without any fear of getting lost, because everyone knew where the tiny chatty white-hair girl lived... She has no doubt that these memories have influenced her artistic journey and language, for in her work there is an Asian influence in the rhythm and movement of the pieces.

Upon returning to the United States, she settled in southeastern Michigan and eventually attended and graduated from Calvin College. She worked for many years as a social worker, both in hospital settings and as a case manager for mentally ill young adults in downtown Grand Rapids. She believes the journeys that she shared with all of the people she came alongside during critical times in their lives, has shaped her artwork as well. For she feels deeply the sorrows, struggles, and pain, as well as joys that we all share.

It was during such a time in her own life of struggle and pain that her painting language changed dramatically. She always expressed herself in visually creative ways, but God took her to an entirely new level about twenty five years ago. And that is when this body of work started, that you are now viewing.

The calligraphic marks that are evident in her work are her prayers. They came to Julie during a remarkable encounter with God during her time of brokenness. She remembers crying out to Him as she lay face down on the floor of her basement. He answered her with this gift. As her gift matured and developed, He asked her to share it with others. As much as she loves painting, it has become true that she enjoys sharing the work and talking with those who view it and hearing their journeys as well, just as much as the creating of it.

Julie still lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a city she has loved and lived in for the past 40 years. Her two children have recently graduated from college and she and her husband are very much enjoying being empty nesters.

Julie's work is ink, oil, and acrylic on claybord. Each piece contains many layers...sometimes as many as 50 or more. Her studio is a place of worship and sanctuary and you will find her praying, singing, and/or dancing while creating the work. Her prayer is that you will find something here that pulls you into an intimate place with God, where you can experience His presence, grace, and love.