

I have been an artist since I was a very little girl. I didn't know this right away, but the impulse was there and it slowly grew until it became integral with every aspect of my life. I went to school and did the stuff they called art but it was boring and meaningless. I went to University and studied art and I managed to glean something from the experience but not a lot... not enough to stay put for the whole sentence. The same thing with College, where I studied architectural design..... I learned some things but I was not inspired. I have taken many different courses here and there and I have learned skills but not enough to make the experience of following a set curriculum worthwhile to me.

What really has shaped me as an artist are the hours and hours I have spent creating. Drawing and painting, sculpting, modeling and carving, building mixed media sculptures, making large outdoor assemblages, designing houses and gardens and outdoor spaces, illustrating, painting murals, looking at art, reading and thinking about art, talking to other artists about art. Living and dancing art. About 25 years ago, I started teaching art to children and sometimes to adults but found that being with the children was so much more inspiring and another integral part of growing as an artist.

I am not very excited about the 'business of art' but I have had several periods in my life of intense involvement in putting my creative work 'out there'. I did installation and performance art in the late 80's. I have been on the Board of Directors for Artist Run Centres. I have been awarded grants and I have been a part of many group shows and several solo exhibits, showing different aspects of my work at different times in my life. Drawing, painting and sculpting, mixed media and performance art. I have had 20 years of commercial art experience, illustrating, painting murals, making props, painting sets and doing public installations.

I have tried to keep myself out of the 'fray'. I wonder if perhaps I have been trying to protect myself. I don't want to be assimilated. I want to be 'naive'. I cannot really call myself an 'Outsider Artist'. I am not reclusive enough and I have had just enough education to render me too sophisticated for that possibility. But I'm not convinced that I don't want to be an outsider. In 1948, French artist Jean Dubuffet created the term 'L'art Brut or 'Raw Art' for art that was created by those people lacking sophistication and connection to mainstream culture. He argued that mainstream culture assimilated new developments in art and in doing so took away all its power and that genuine expression was asphyxiated by the expectations of the art culture. I love this line by him. ".....we cannot avoid the feeling that in relation to these works, (created from solitude and authentic creative impulses) cultural art in its entirety appears to be the game of a futile society, a fallacious parade." A bit strong perhaps but something to think about.

This website is a step in a different direction for me. one that will allow me to put my work 'out there' again. I do intend though, to continue to always try and create from a place of solitude and with authenticity...to try to keep the vision a little bit 'raw'.

