

Artist Portrait by Brian Cooper

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B9PlyjFpY8Q/>

“For the art especially; it parallels life.” -Heather Gerni

Intuitive Artist, DreamScaper, Collective Unconscious Medium, Post Folk Painter

Down an old gravel road flanked by spruce and elm sits an 8 sided home. In this home resides an old cat named Phoebe, three dozen panels and canvases stacked in varying states of completion, and a human who translates messages from the deep soul.

This human is Heather Gerni, and the symbolism in her compositions gives voice to the hidden realms of the unconscious mind; a language that few of us speak, and even fewer are fluent in.

Heather’s work is deeply intuitive, coming from a place without intention and blooming into a dreamscape filled with mystical critters, crowns, horns, ravens and heart-soul.

“When I begin a new piece, I start by just crazily and haphazardly throwing paint on the canvas. This is the time that it is great to experiment, and it does not matter what it looks like, the whole purpose of this place is being playful, letting it move, and basically being a hot mess. You look at that chaos, and then that’s when you find the imagery. That’s when the composition emerges. For me it is so easy to throw paint on a canvas without wondering what I am supposed to be doing here or what’s the goal, and that is what I love about this process.”

In this way Heather’s art is a colorful Rorschach test; a projective expression from a place that does not use words and does not confine with categories. Her art is created from a place of mystery, and that is often where it remains.

“Sometimes these compositions will come out and people will ask me, ‘What does this mean? What is this symbology?’ and I am like, ‘I don’t know, I am still trying to figure that out too.’”

While for most of Heather’s work, she has allowed her open creativity to dredge up symbols from unconscious realms without conscious direction, she has taken on a “theme” show and has allowed a drop of intentionality to shape her craft.

“To have a theme for a show is new to me. Typically my paintings go together because they are my style, but I do not plan my paintings. But having these paintings out to represent me losing my voice, or losing myself is a different kind of art for me. The other day it took me three canvases for the right expression to come through”

Heather’s newfound semi-intentional artistic alchemy comes from a place of necessary healing. No one gets through this life unscathed, and a hurt Heather uses the best medicine she knows: acrylic, panel, good lighting, and time to heal.

“Art heals because it is a way for me to express what is happening, even before I have words to express it. Especially in the process that I use I do not have to think about it, just the natural energy that is there at that moment comes out into the canvas. The energy just moves.”

To become fluent in any language we must commit. We must have faith to show up in front of the canvas and come calling on realms beyond our understanding. We must look down into the shining coils of our guts, and allow the pain of our human world to have a wordless voice-trusting that it has something sweet to say.

To speak the language of the soul, all we have to do is be like Heather Gerni. Show up, shut up, and trust the mystery of whatever comes through.