

Sue Freeman – Artist’s Statement

Over thirty years ago I graduated from James Madison University with a BFA in graphic design. Since that time, and up until 2017, I pushed my passion aside to focus on other aspects of my life – my family, my job, my home. As a result of gathering some extremely interesting pieces of debris along Outer Banks beaches, and motivated by visiting local galleries, I decided to make time for art once again.

My garage is my studio. I love hanging out there creating pieces from wood that would have otherwise taken up space in a landfill. The wood I use comes from pallets discarded behind a dumpster at the local hardware store, wood washed up on the beach, and furniture left on the curb for bulk pickup day.

I recently started working with encaustic painting – a medium that stretches your imagination and forces you outside your comfort zone. The process is quite addictive; the outcome always unexpected. I am drawn to a process called encaustic accretion – a building up of texture.

My current work is an expression of my love for the outdoors and represents elements of nature (and the effect of nature) I have experienced while living in the Outer Banks. I want my work to inspire people to get outside, find beauty in the lines, color, and texture of not only natural elements, but the effect nature (and time) has on artificial elements.

With most of my artwork, I begin with a design in mind that rarely makes it through to the final piece. Along the way, the medium begins to expose its true image and then reaches a place where the color and texture is right, and feels right, in my mind’s eye.

In 2017, I was honored with Best in Show at the Mollie Fearing Memorial Art Show held at the Dare County Arts Council in Manteo. The piece, “My Kind of Treasure” depicts the current Bonner Bridge and the rocks next to the old Coast Guard station leading to the ocean. The original design morphed into something different during the process, but I will always see the bridge and the rocks in this composition. This piece is shown below. Do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions!



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