

Artist Statement

My passion for drawing and painting portraits has consistently dominated my art for over 30 years. Whether I am painting a real person or one of the absurd, whimsical individuals from my imagination, I begin with a raw, intuitive mixed media approach and finish each portrait with a very precise choice of line and shape.

Since I invariably value an individual's inner authenticity over their outward appearance, my dedication to the realistic line varies significantly. Rather than purely focus on physical likeness, I also approach each portrait striving to capture the inner psychological layers and desires of the subject as well as the outer emotional environment that they knowingly or unknowingly create.

Catherine McMillan

Bio

Catherine McMillan has always believed in the importance of living creatively and the pursuit of personal authenticity and she has spent her entire life committed to that path. In 1985, after Art & Design Studies at MacEwan University, her love for travel and her passion for drawing people took her wandering around the world as a caricature artist. She spent many years drawing people throughout Canada, as well as Great Britain, Europe, Israel, New Zealand and Australia.

In 2001 she started an on-line caricature business called The Quirky Art Café, offering commissioned illustration and event caricature in and around Edmonton drawing at as many as 100 events each year. Catherine is a respected member of ISCA (the International Society of Caricature Artists) and since 2008 has attended caricature conventions in North Carolina, Ohio, Florida, Texas, Nevada, and Girona, Spain.

In 2009, she expanded her art studio to a commercial location, in her own beautiful neighborhood of Parkallen, and began to offer classes in drawing, mixed media and altered book making as well as the increasingly popular "Art, Women and Wine" nights.

In 2011 she opened a real café in the studio, thinking that it would be an enjoyable and (hopefully profitable) addition, but found after 2 years, that the cost and time involved in running an actual café (and the disruption to her painting) was too great. So in December 2013 she closed the café part, converted it all back to her art studio and began painting full time again. Her paintings are part of collections all over Canada and the US and her most recent work can be often viewed in select galleries and café locations around Edmonton and purchased by appointment at The Quirky Art Café.

<http://www.quirkyartcafe.ca/>