

THE RED CHAIR PROJECT

EVE PAGE MATHIAS

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Miro Gallery
181 East Santa Clara St
San Jose, CA 95113

STEVENSON
ARTS FOUNDATION





There once was a big red chair in my living room. My sweet old dog, Luna, enjoyed sitting up on the back of it so she could look out the window. Luna passed, and the chair got old, too. Because this chair means a lot to me, I pushed it into my studio. It is a reassurance as I work that my little one is still there and that there are cherished friends to come.

This chair anchored me. It has become a symbol of where my place in the world was during the Covid crisis. Now, when I ask someone to sit in the red chair, it “connects the dots” between those missing moments when I was separated from my friends and loved ones. Then we all emerged and came back together. When it was okay to see folks and the mist cleared, we were allowed to “see” each other again...

I began a project of portraits of my dear female friends. Why only women? I think it was because I missed them the most. I puzzled over this because I also treasure my friends who are male, and certainly would like to paint them. Maybe it is because there is the yearning - the aching of the soul - that I perceive as a part of the female psyche. This was a good place to start because it is where I resonate as a female person.

But I also missed myself as an individual, a unique human being. During Covid one was only a cipher, not someone interesting. We were all just “things” with masks who might possibly be a spreader of the disease, or worse, die. We were reduced to robots doing our jobs on a digital platform, being parents who couldn’t permit our expressions of love because we were afraid we could make our children sick. I taught at the college level and suddenly had to reduce my persona into a voice on a computer monitor. This is not healthy for a person who thrived by human contact.

Thus, the Big Red Chair Project began.

Eve Page Mathias



My Angel

(Gina Razz)

2022, 60" x 48"

Acrylic on canvas



Gina – Why would I call Gina an Angel? It is because her spiritual grace, love and beauty fill my soul. I just love being around her, her kindness teaches me restraint from judging others. She is My Angel.

The Curious One
(MeiYing Dell'Aquila)
2022, 60" x 48"
Acrylic on canvas

Mei-Ying – I like to call Mei-Ying the curious one because she is always asking questions. Her curiosity for me is stimulating because I love to see the way her mind works. Her intelligence is intuitive yet informed. Her curiosity contributes to the exquisite way she makes art. She is The Curious One.





My Queen

(Julinda)

2022, 60" x 48"

Acrylic on canvas



Julinda – If there ever was a woman who would be the queen of my heart, it is Julinda. Statuesque and intelligent, she will look directly into your eyes where she sees your soul. She is a woman of words reflecting the songs of the spirit. She is The Queen.



The Wise One
(Yu, Chun Hui)
2022, 60" x 48"
Acrylic on canvas

Yu, Chun Hui – Quiet wisdom should be Chun-Hui's middle name. She is a master of Chinese brush painting, and I am her student. She is most wise: When I ask how many leaves belong on a bamboo, she says, "It is your choice." This is not a frivolous comment, she is talking about the contemplation of choices. This makes her The Wise One.

High Fire
(Michelle Gregor)
2022, 60" x 48"
Acrylic on canvas

Michelle G. – “High fire” does not begin to define my dear friend Michelle G. Michelle lights up a room like fire. She radiates, she emanates her fierce beauty. I am always stimulated being around her because she operates at high fire 24-7. In addition, she has a way of making anyone around her feel special, as if you are the most important person in the world. She is High Fire.





Radiant

(Wendy)

2024, 60" x 48"

Acrylic on canvas

Wendy is a beacon of radiance when she smiles. I first encountered her coaching the rowing group I'm in, as she quietly nodded, yet giving a fierce assurance that we were destined to succeed in our daily goal. Her beaming, unspoken inspiration and exemplary demeanor radiates assurance and inspiration. Her easy-going manner is contagious and helps you to relax and do the task at hand with joy and determination.

The Magnet
(Ema Harris-Sintamarian)
2023, 60" x 48"
Acrylic on canvas

When Ema locks her pale aquamarine eyes into yours, she is a magnet who draws you in. She is beautiful, energetic, preceptive, and charismatic. A formidable artist and scholar, Ema is also a beloved teacher, and respected comrade. But watch out for her crazy, roguish side! It is playful and irresistible. She is magnetic!





The Citizen
(Lorena)
2023, 60" x 48"
Acrylic on canvas

Lorena – For over twenty years, I have watched Lorena blossom into a strong woman who has confidence and dignity. She has been a very important part of our home and is a member of our family. She has achieved something most important to her which is her path to citizenship. Soon, she will be The Citizen.



Resilient

(Nora and Meadow)

2024, 41" x 29" (framed 50 x 38")

Acrylic on paper

Meadow was born just under 4 pounds, and 2 months early. Certainly of concern, yet here she is this day, triumphant and resilient at 16 pounds. She is big, feisty, and smiling like a champ! Her grandmother, Lisa (another portrait from this series), is one of my dearest friends and her entire family is my treasure. I remember when Nora was born – such is the circle of life. Life and family are resilient, like a silk thread: fragile but strong and everlasting - the tie that binds.

Dignity
(Rhonda)
2024,
41" x 29"
Acrylic on paper

Tall, straight, and glowing, Rhonda is the personification of Dignity and all its positive attributes. Smart, compassionate, and noble, Rhonda projects a bearing of respect which elevates everyone she encounters. Only her kindness and generosity exceed her beauty.





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STEVENSON ARTS FOUNDATION

The Stevenson Arts Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting artists by providing high-quality exhibition space for artwork and promoting an artful living lifestyle within the community. We welcome donations of artwork, which will have the opportunity to be exhibited at the Miro gallery. To view our past exhibitions or acquire any display artworks, please visit our website at <http://stevensonartsfoundation.org/> or reach out through Miro leasing office.



For 59 years, the Triton Museum of Art has been a destination for the community, providing a venue where local artists exhibit their work alongside regional and national artists and where students of all ages learn about art and the creative process. Located across the street from the Santa Clara Civic Center, the Triton Museum of Art collects and exhibits contemporary and historical works with an emphasis on artists of the Greater Bay Area. Over 40,000 people attend the museum on-site annually through its exhibitions, education, and community programs, and over 90,000 people view the museum's satellite gallery and exhibitions annually.