

Artist's Statement

I have been dedicating my passion to theatre set design for nearly a decade. All the elements and techniques that I learned in the business have recently led me to collage as my new direction of artistic life. Having worked in the world of meticulous planning and collaboration, I truly enjoy the freedom of creating collage. My insight into collage is however, strongly influenced by theatre set design and scene painting. I am also intrigued by early modern Japanese art such as The Rimpa paintings.

My focus is on the texture that I create by layering found materials and acrylic paints, and on the composition which I call "Object & Flow". The splash of metallic paints against the rich colored background emphasizes the unity and composition as well as the depth of the entire picture.

The subject on my works varies, but my inspiration tends to come from my nature as a Japanese Buddhist – Buddhism in my mind, not that I'm practicing.... The environment in which I grew up keeps its influence upon my artistic life. Buddhist habit seems to be taking a big part of it. Making collages is the endless journey to express my identity, and to visualize my spiritual thoughts and memories.

Biography

Sonoka Fukuma Gozelski is a mixed media collage artist and freelance theatre set designer, residing in East Northport, Long Island, NY. She is native Japanese, and has been living in NY/NJ area since 1997. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Set Design from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Her credits in theatre include "Always...Patsy Cline" and "Over the River and Throught the Woods" at John W. Engeman Theater at Northport.

She enjoys creating collages whenever she can be out of the theatre. She launched her art business "Sonoka County" in the spring of 2006. Since then, she has been showing her creations at various fine art shows and exhibitions on Long Island.