

Bio

As a youth I lived for any opportunity to draw, paint, model, sculpt or assemble things. Living in an active household of nine people became a catalyst for painting, drawing and expressing life as family members were often coaxed into modeling for portraits and figurative paintings. As a young 13 year old my first influential painting instructor and mentor was Blaine Cota Jr. an abstract expressionist painter and Historian who lived in an 18th century historic museum home in Litchfield, CT. Blaine's instruction laid the foundation for my visual arts education during a five - year span of study, which included traditional oil painting methods and techniques infused with art historical precedent.

As a teacher of the visual arts, my career began over 40 years ago in a rural Connecticut Elementary School after receiving a BS in Art Education from Southern Connecticut State University. Graduate school brought me south to the University of North Carolina Greensboro where I earned an MFA in Painting. As a University Professor I have been enjoying teaching a variety of Painting and Drawing Courses at Coastal Carolina University for over 30 years. My paintings have been exhibited in regional, national and international juried exhibitions. I live and maintain a studio in Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

My current artwork finds its foothold in traditional painting technique while simultaneously engaging contemporary thought, process and meaning. The traditional methods of painting have merged into mixed media layering and collaged space. These mixed media paintings have become vehicles that address my interest in the content of modern social challenges such as loss, aging, and the environment, etc.

I feel my mixed media/collaged paintings have been greatly inspired by the polychromatic, pattern, and textures of fabrics and quilts.

Undoubtedly, a direct influence from my grandmother who was a wonderful seamstress and who delighted me as a child with her beautiful hand made dresses of saturated colors, swoon inducing patterns and layers of semi -transparent fabrics. To this day, visiting a fabric shop with its myriad colors and textures feels to me like going into a candy store.

Maura Kenny

