



Betsy Levels
Decorative Artist

- Original paintings
- Decorative objects
- Painted guitars
- Seasonal decor
- painted furniture
- Reproductions and gift items

Bio

Shreveport resident Betsy Levels has been involved in many creative pursuits over the years, but only began an art career after becoming permanently disabled. She is largely self-taught, and began painting as a tole painter, but had a strong desire to create her own original designs, which led to creating original paintings. She works primarily in acrylics, but occasionally uses oils, pastels, watercolor, and colored pencil, and has recently begun to experiment with mixed media.



Artists Statement

"I paint in acrylics, watercolors and oils--any medium I can get my hands on. I paint everything from murals to jewelry! I have always been driven to create something. Whether it was painting, sculpture, leathercraft, gardening, crochet... I had to learn how to make something new, or make something beautiful that wasn't before. I have been able to devote a great deal more time to my creative pursuits since becoming disabled, which closed the door on my teaching career, but opened up new avenues to me. I constantly look for new skills and techniques to expand my abilities because there is always that look or that feeling I want to capture but haven't yet. Whether anyone likes what I do or not, I have to touch that creative process somehow on a daily basis or I myself stop growing. This has given me the means to commit memories, dreams, and opinions to a permanent shareable form. I am driven to create...constantly. My art enables me to do so in a way that will live and speak for me even after I am gone. I have also recently discovered my art as a way to express ideas and concepts in a way that I believe works better than words."



Many of my paintings are based on cherished memories. Our family loved to do things together, especially outdoors, when the children were small. We didn't have money to spend on theme parks and such, but we managed to enjoy ourselves doing what we could do on a very limited budget. Family fishing trips were a real treat, because along with an outing, we usually got a fish fry as well! This was painted from a small sketch I made of my husband and our youngest daughter fishing one chilly afternoon. I kept the sketch for twenty years before I finally painted it!

"Dad and Daughter Fishing"
acrylic on canvas 24"x30"

Life began in a garden. I am an avid gardener, so that conjures up glorious visions of beauty and bounty in my imagination. I love the delicate blossoms, the soft clover, the sweet fruits. The fulfillment of the cycle of seasons and the ever-present faith in life's renewal to come.

But we as a species seem determined to ravage the magnificence of the environment we depend on, and are ultimately doomed to destroy it if changes are not rapidly made. Will our frantic lust for bigger, faster, more powerful objects seal mankind's doom? Are we determined to keep taking bite after bite from the fatal apple? Perhaps the snake knows.



"The Expulsion"
36"x36" acrylic on canvas

On the night when armed federal troops first stormed upon unarmed Black Lives Matter protesters, the larger-than-life shadow of my daughter loomed over their doorway, with her fist defiantly raised. The image showed up in pictures and video broadcasts worldwide, and I decided that it needed to be committed to canvas as well. I created my own multicultural group of spectators and incorporated the peace sign and guitar player in a plaid shirt from my own rebellious youth, making a multigenerational statement for freedom fighters everywhere.



"Lady Liberty"
24"x30" acrylic on canvas



My father loved flying, and often shared his memories of his days as a crop duster pilot with me. His descriptions were so vivid the listener would almost feel as if they had been there. I painted this from one of those stories, and the title, "Into the Blue", was actually his catchphrase for "c'mon, let's get going".

"Into The Blue"
10"x10" acrylic on canvas



I consider this a self-portrait of sorts, because I lost the log home and farm that I loved, not in a fire, but in an acrimonious divorce that included near-lethal domestic violence.. But I emerged from the situation stronger and more resilient, and view it as a beginning, rather than an end for myself.

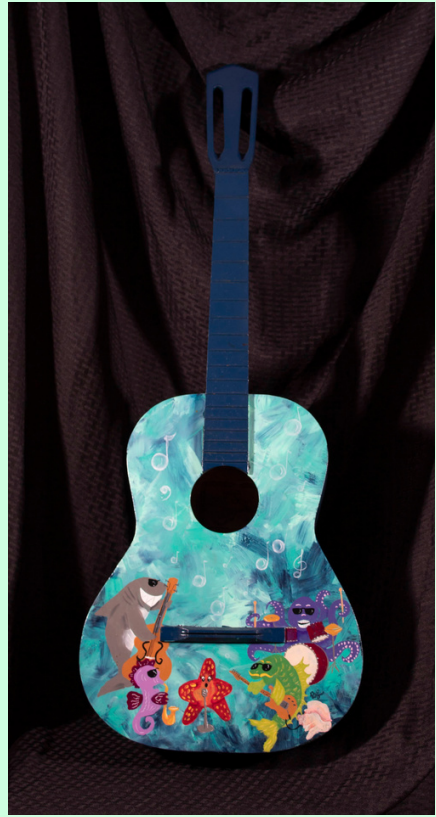
"I Am The Phoenix"
16"x20" acrylic on canvas



Angels are a symbol of hope, and are one of my favorite painting subjects

I have "promoted" many old guitars to art,
and even had one featured in *The
Decorative Painter* magazine

(Issue#1 of 2013)



I paint on furniture





I paint
on
jewelry



I do original decorative painting on lots of different surfaces



reversible 4 ft. wreath



In fact, I paint on anything that doesn't run away *very* fast!





I have reproductions of my artwork available on a variety of items on my website at betsylevels.com





I would love to hear from you about what you'd like to see!

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