

## Crow Talk & Winged Whispers

I am fascinated with the similarity of crows to humans- the ability to be playful, their attraction to small “precious” shiny things, their cunning behavior and their need to be the center of attention. The butterflies and moths in my collection on the other hand represent for me a whisper of beauty-just out of our reach, elusive like long ago memories. As a child I would chase butterflies and moths in the yard and dream of having a mini collection in my bedroom. My collection, *Crow Talk and Winged Whispers*, melds our everyday human constructs with our more elusive dreams and yearnings. The heavily patterned backgrounds are a nod to past events and historical textiles.

My first piece I created in this collection *Majestic Traditions* was born from the rich textile designs I uncovered from completing a commissioned work based on a 12th Century Romanesque Crucifix. I could not shake the imagery of the repeated patterns on Christ’s tunic ...so I painted it on canvas. The crow in this painting symbolizes the staunch tradition and enduring qualities present in many organized religions. In later pieces the crow takes on the role of a “judge” in *Measuring Up*, a gambler *With a Stroke of the Finger* and a stoic comedian in *Fortitude*.

The “whisper pieces” are quiet reminders of the patterns that evoke past memories. The painting, *Diligence*, depicts a Cercropia Moth on a backdrop of a jungle inspired by the *Angeli Laudantes* by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, 1898. The piece represents the diligence of the weaver that created the tapestry and my own dedication to painting. The Tiger Swallowtail, Black Swallowtail, Monarch and Luna Moth arrived in my paintings on the flutter my childhood memories.

The most recent pieces in my collection are of Fourteen paintings titled the “The Stations of My Cancer”. Through these fourteen pieces I parallel my diagnosis (2019) and subsequent treatment of Stage 2 Breast Cancer with the journey of Christ’s Passion. The expressions of grief and support by family and community are beautiful components of the Catholic Stations of the Cross and provided me with personal healing and acceptance of my disease. I sincerely hope that these thirteen paintings will give a “voice” to other breast cancer warriors / survivors and provide a personal dialogue with the health care community.

I hope that as you view the show the crows will talk to you and you will talk to your friends about the works and perhaps the whispers of my winged beauties will create a lasting memory for you as well. Enjoy the show,

Melissa Restuccia