



Erin Nazzaro

What inspires you?

I'm very inspired by South American cultures, especially Argentinean, Chilean, and Mexican cultures. My husband and I have been fortunate enough to travel to those places and they've been incredible.

Have you always known you would be an artist?

Yes, I did. But I knew for certain when one day, a silent nun came into our Catholic school and taught us how to draw a daffodil on the chalkboard. Since then I've known that drawing is what I love.

Why did you move to the Fairfield County area?

Well, I've always lived here! I went to Joel Barlow when I was young. I also had a mentor in Redding who died recently.

How has your work evolved over the years?

I used to use just pencil and do very perfectly drawn, very precise still lifes and whatnot. Sometime in the mid-80s my mind switched over to bright colors.

Why do you make art?

I make art because I want to have a happy message in it. The bright colors, the pretty landscapes, and the cultures I depict are supposed to make people feel happy. A lot of artists work to make some kind of political or social message, but that isn't what I'm trying to do.

Did you have a day job?

Yes, I used to have a framing shop in town, but now I just do it from the lower floor in my studio. Being able to frame your artwork is a very valuable skill to have.

Are your pieces being shown anywhere currently?

I have an exhibit in Woodbury for a few months, as a matter of fact. There is a whole wall just of my crow paintings. I'm also working on a show in Santa Fe, which should be a big commitment and a good time.

Why do you choose to work so large?

I have an easel that fits a 15-foot canvas, plus I just enjoy it. But I have to be careful nowadays to make smaller pieces just so people at openings can entertain the idea of purchasing them. People were a lot more interested in buying bigger pieces a few years ago, but now it's hard to get them to buy unless they're small.

