

Ran 1899

GALLERY

JONI ABEL BIO AND ARTIST STATEMENT



Joni Abel, a San Angelo, Texas artist, has been a creative person her entire life. In childhood, it was a fascination with insects and plants, singing, and learning piano at her mother's side. By high school, Joni was a competitive pianist, attended 5 a.m. lessons out of town with her father as champion, and received several awards during her college career as a concert pianist, including first place in an international competition in Italy.

The need to follow a different path emerged after college and, for the next ten years, Joni taught a combination of elementary music, choir, piano lessons, and English in both private and public schools. Creative outlets during this time included not only music, but also photography, mixed media everything, entomology, succulent gardens, and most importantly encouraging students to explore creative outlets of their own.

Her current phase of creativity, expressed through digital art creation and collage, she says is fulfilling and has provided significant comfort after the death of her father almost one year ago. All aspects of her interests, fascinations, dreams, and variations of what is lovely exist within her pieces, and her father and all her loved ones are present in many of them. Joni believes this form allows her to explore and engage whatever comes and however it arrives, with self as the only limitation.

Her work, she says, is “an adventure of uncovering and contributing.” She loves to uncover what is there — the flowers, creatures, and colors — and then contribute the things that could belong there if time and place had been arranged differently. Presented as a kaleidoscope of colors and ideas, this collection is full of “lovely, spontaneous, and intentional thoughts — the ones inside that shine out like sunbeams.”

Joni is a recent Master of Social Work graduate, writes grants for a local non-profit counseling agency, and very soon will begin work as a therapist. She is passionate about helping individuals directly while simultaneously improving the bigger picture. Words, thoughts, and expression are creative components seen in her work as a writer and therapist – creativity supports and heals in many forms.

Joni has a four-year-old daughter who often creates alongside her and has several masterpieces of her own; a loving and hard-working husband who supports her every whim, even when he doesn't understand why blue beetles should be surrounded by flowers; and a bird dog named Green Bean, a very important member of the family.