

EWOMANCIPATED

Definition of Emancipate: to free from restraint, control, or the power of another; especially: to free from bondage

Since 2016 the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington DC started a social media campaign called #can you name 5 women artists. This project captured my imagination. I started asking friends and acquaintances if they could name 5 women artists. I was somewhat surprised people could not name 5 women artists, but I was really discouraged that many could not think of even one. It is this lack of collective memory, about the history of women that spurred me to action.

There were many great women artists through the ages, they just did not get the credit during their lifetimes or after that their male counterparts did. I believe women's accomplishments need to be repeated over and over again until the public is as confident in their knowledge of women's (artistic) accomplishments throughout history as they are of men's.

I have painted portraits on unstretched canvas of many women artists that have inspired me. The canvas is reminiscent of kitchen towels or dishrag's. They can be very pretty and decorative yet extremely durable. They get dirty constantly but then get washed off and used all over again. They are often taken for granted as soon as they lose their initial color and decorative aspect. They have many uses, can be utilized both wet and dry, and come in many shapes sizes and colors. This is an analogy for the many obstacles that women artists faced and overcame time and time again.

The paintings are small (38x32) cm. and when all put together, they look like a quilt which is considered women's work. It is also a metaphor for how strong we are when we work together.

These paintings are an homage to the women artists that have come before me and helped open doors so I can do the thing I love. It also honors the women that have been working during my lifetime that continue to struggle to get recognition and equal pay for equal work for making magnificent works of art.