

Susan Bauer
susanmbauer.com

Artist Statement:

The clothes that protect us, that make us laugh, that serve as a uniform, that help us assert our identity or aspirations, that we wear to remember someone - in all of these are encoded the stories of our lives. We all have a memoir in miniature living in a garment we've worn.

Emily Spivack - Worn Stories

My work relies on identity and how clothing is used to manipulate the view of ourselves and how stories are imbued in clothing. Drawing and painting clothing has been part of my oeuvre for several years. I have chosen pieces of clothing that have a personal meaning to me, usually the past owner is a family member. So there is a deep connection present for me and a remembrance of that family member. Each of these pieces I have chosen to draw or paint tells a story of the owner, how they lived their lives, what they aspired to be by wearing these pieces of clothing. I also consider my work to be portraits, by paying homage to the clothing, animating the clothing by using the form and drape and creating its own story.

Biography:

A constant in my life has been creating with my hands and identifying myself as an artist and learning as much as possible about making and creating. Another constant has been the practice of drawing, creating lines on paper and building upon the practice of drawing and its many forms, creating form with line was of particular interest. Studies in art at Buffalo State College Buffalo NY, receiving a BS in Art Education. Continuing studies in graphic design resulted in employment as a graphic designer pre-computer based design. Marriage and 2 children was a break from making an affiliation with the Attleboro Arts Museum in Attleboro MA and working with the museum exhibitions and teaching art. Continuing Education classes at RISD began art making again with studies in drawing and painting eventually leading to graduate studies at UMass Dartmouth in Dartmouth MA receiving an MFA in Painting. My focus now is with drawing and painting, art making in my home studio in Attleboro, MA.

Exhibitions:

- 2023 *Draped* (solo), Dryden Gallery, Providence, RI
- 2022 *Danforth Art Annual*, Danforth Art Museum at Framingham State University, Framingham, MA (Juror: Juliet Feibel).
- 2022 *Variations*, Marblehead Arts Association, Marblehead, MA
- 2020 The Roddy Juried Show Series, Concord Art, Concord, MA (Juror: Lisa Crossman Curator of American Art & Arts of the Americas Mead Art Museum, Amherst College).
- 2019 *AONE*, Silvermine Guild Art Center, New Canaan, CT (Curated by Bill Carroll, Director of Studio Program, The Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts).