

## **Grace Martoccia**

### **Artist Statement**

I chose this body of work because it represents my desire to communicate what I see to the viewer as a contemporary impressionist. All three works have bold and colorful palettes to make the ordinary come alive and spark the imagination. I am not concerned with duplicating reality- we have all had enough reality. Rather, I hope to create a visually sensory experience. As a woman, sometimes I would like to escape the domestic reality and responsibilities of living in the suburbs... maybe, I could be a girl with flowers in my hair, living in Provence or somewhere like that. Also, perhaps the viewer could gaze upon the Tokyo Snow and recall a time he or she walked together in a foreign city with a loved one. Finally, real life can be overwhelming and complicated- wouldn't it be magical to be transported to the Blue House over there? What treasures does it hold? It's only a glance away. I hope my viewers feel love and inspiration from the colors and loose line work that does not ask them to be perfect, but to be themselves more fully. My wish for my viewers is that these paintings can hold personal meaning for them... the way a favorite song or poem does.

## **Grace Martoccia**

### **Bio**

My name is Grace Martoccia and I paint in both pastel and oil. I would classify my personal style of painting as contemporary impressionism. I have been involved in art from my earliest memories. I always took classes in different mediums and later achieved a minor in fine art along with a major in English when I was an undergraduate student in college. As much as I like words and their different shades of meaning, I am even more passionate about the power of color and composition to communicate the things words cannot.

My inspirations have been Matisse, Degas, Monet, Modigliani and Japanese art. I tend to paint large florals, cityscapes, women, coastal scenes, animals and trees. I like to paint large because it gives me more room to say what I want to say. For me painting has been a way to go somewhere far away without leaving my studio space in Morristown.

I have been a part of ArtSpace Studio in Morristown for about 10 years and spent the first six as a student of Julie Friedman, a master colorist and landscape painter. I have been blessed by the time I spent as her student. I now rent studio space from Julie and paint among such gifted women. I am married and live in Basking Ridge, NJ. As much as I love creating art, my best work has been being a mom to my three sons: Danny, Jim and Alex.

Instagram: @gracemartoccia