

## Marie Tosto

### Artist Statement

Some of the very traits that make me a questionable adult have been valuable commodities as an artist. Being a little excessive, obsessive, and particular can be very useful. My best discoveries, in my studio work and as a makeup artist, have been when I went totally ham and pushed my products or materials as far as they could go. Letting myself make an absolute mess of things has taught and revealed textures and color combinations that my limited mind couldn't dream up on its own. That's also the best and most fun part of *being* an artist - having the permission to make mistakes and let go of controlling the outcome. It liberates you.

When people ask me what kind of artwork do I make, my answer is typically that I am a mixed media artist. Most of my pieces are works on paper and employ a combination of drawing, painting and collage. My work often is categorized as abstract. However, I do not assign that label to myself since I am rarely abstracting my images from anything. I refer to myself as a non-representational artist who learned a long time ago to let the work reveal itself. So, should a figure, bird, or something recognizable emerge... I go with it. Once a substantial amount of ground has been explored, I go back into the work and make deliberate choices that begin to guide the painting or drawing. Even then, I still step back, meditate, pray, stare indefinitely - whatever! - and trust my intuition and the work in front of me to guide the next steps.