

Jessa Huebing-Reitinger

An Artist Statement

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Collectively, as humans, we all have personal experiences with bugs and insects throughout our lifetime. Some experiences have been negative or positive based on a variety of personal feelings and cultural perceptions. I became aware of this fact one morning when struck with a God-given vision that inspired an immediate trip to the local library. As I flipped through a picture book dedicated to insects, a single photograph of a caterpillar, grabbed my attention. A childhood memory in which I witnessed the metamorphosis of a Luna moth came flooding back and reminded me how significant one small encounter could have such a huge impact twenty-five years later.

The vision I received allowed me to see these tiny and beautiful creatures with a unique new perspective. Performing with oils on canvas and pastels on paper, I create images that captivate an audience, allowing them to visually experience insects as never before. They “see” the microscopic details and “feel” the insects’ presence. The images come directly from specimens, which I view under a microscope, and are mostly non-indigenous or endangered species.

As an unconventional visual artist, I introduce the process of creating a painting, within a public space. The public is allowed to witness a daily transformation of the image and subject. For the artist, a studio traditionally has been a space in which he can create in solitude. The idea and body of work is then displayed or exhibited for the public to view in its completed state. The experience of “making” is absent from the spectator. In my professional experience, very few people understand or have seen the processes that artists use to create their work. They often are excited and interested enough to ask all types of questions relating to the procedures and subject matter.

Within this body of work, I utilize several creative influences, which includes; Carravaggio, Georgia O’Keefe, and Chuck Close. I have selected these painters because of their technical specialties and extraordinary ability to capture the seen and unseen.

Contact Information

Jessa Huebing-Reitinger
402.677.3677 cell

jessa@projectinsect.com

www.projectinsect.com