

# Maura Kenny --Artist and Educator



\*65" Self Portrait 15x22in

My artwork is grounded in traditional painting technique while engaging in contemporary thought, process and meaning. Initially, I draw my subject with graphite and this act of drawing transports me into an interior place. While in this inner place, ideas intuitively ignite into action and into painting.

Using the customary process of painting for these representational paintings is joyful and a necessary catalyst for percolating thoughts, synthesizing ideas, and combining imagery and materials into a new whole. A personal use of symbols has developed in my work over time. The symbolic shape of a house in a number of paintings for example becomes the common denominator literally and figuratively for "home", guardian figures are repeated in various forms and the concept of memory is reflected in transparent figurative silhouettes. My inspiration for painting is found in everyday life and my enthusiasm for engagement in the painting process.

As a youth in Connecticut, I was one of seven children and had two very supportive parents. Living in an active household of nine people became a catalyst for painting, drawing and expressing life as family members were often coaxed into modeling for portraits and figurative paintings. As a young 13 year old my first influential painting instructor and mentor was Blaine Cota, Jr. an abstract expressionist painter and historian who lived in an 18th century historic museum home in Litchfield, CT. Blaine's instruction laid the foundation for my visual arts education during a 5 year span of study.

As a teacher of the visual arts, my career began 40 years ago in a rural Connecticut Elementary School after receiving a BS in Art Education from Southern Connecticut State University. Graduate school brought me south to the University of North Carolina Greensboro where I earned an MFA in Painting. I enjoyed teaching a variety of Painting, Drawing and Art Education courses at Coastal Carolina University for over 30 years. My paintings have been exhibited in regional, national and international juried exhibitions. I live and maintain a studio in Pawleys Island, SC with my husband Paul. Available works at Island Art Gallery:



<https://maurakenny.com>