

Maria Forde

Artist Statement

“Do your thing and I shall know you”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

My goal is to make something that is honest without trying to impress. I would prefer to call myself a journalist because in this capacity I can avoid feeling frivolous about my need to be creative. There is something overtly histrionic about taking a brush and some paint and expressing my raw emotions. Doing something well, like being a mother or a plumber is artistic to me so I take great care to be pragmatic in regard to how I see my place in the world. I am more compelled by the drive of a nonfiction writer or maybe a scientist who is attempting to find a reason. I would be pleased if my work felt like a neighbor; something close by and a reminder to the viewer that they are not alone. With enough practice and care the “art” will arise without so much fuss and attention paid toward it.

I mostly paint and draw. I also enjoy printmaking. The subject of my art is the people and things in my life I am attracted to; my family and friends and the fascination I have for music and books and movies.

I try to find order in my life and engage with people. I want my work to hopefully resonate with others despite our differences. I believe life is full of moments. Some seem unimportant and small while others are deeply felt and become pivotal in helping us understand ourselves. I attempt to add up all the facts and try to make sense or at least revel in the wonder of it all.

The idea of sharing my work with the public outside of an art gallery is important to me. Art should be inclusive. I feel it is my responsibility as an artist to share the enthusiasm I have for what I do. To foster the notion that everyone has the ability to be creative and be nourished by art.