

Serena Refoua

I grew up in Highland Park, Los Angeles, and now live in Altadena. I got my BA in history from Occidental College and minored in art history. I really wanted to take fine art classes, but my parents discouraged me from a career in the arts so I went into teaching. After 37 years in LAUSD, I retired and eventually took a watercolor class at McGroarty Arts Center in Tujunga. I was completely smitten by it and have been taking various classes and workshops for about four years. I have branched out into figure drawing, mixed media, ink and acrylic painting.

My work is generally free-form and abstract, and often surrealistic. I use an intuitive method and often don't have any particular subject in mind when I begin. I sit back and let it tell me what it should be. I build on each layer and strive for linear connectivity and depth. Using world textiles and folk art motifs as inspiration, my work can be highly graphic. These details are purposeful, like the Egyptian symbols in "Anubis, My Heart is Light." I often include surprises and hidden subjects to create or subvert the context. Many details are random, which to me represent the unexpected in life. It's always interesting to me how my work is interpreted – where do the lines take the viewer, and what emotions come up as the eye wanders through? When I was six years old, a family friend gave me an art book titled "Going for a Walk With a Line – A Step Into the World of Modern Art." It must have been important to me because I still have this book and I'm still going for walks with lines.