



## **M a u r a C l u t h e**

*Kansas City, MO*

### **Artist Statement**

Back in 1996, I had what I consider to be one of my first real solo shows. It was at the Kansas City Artists Coalition, in the Underground Gallery. I was thrilled to be showing my work there. Prior to hanging the work, I was overwhelmed by the amount of wall space and by the space itself! Surprisingly enough, in the end, I had too many pieces and had to decide which ones to include and which ones to keep in my studio. That show was titled Sketchbook: Chapter One. It was, in many ways, an experiment for me, a beginning; it was my Chapter One. It was an experiment in mixed media, an experiment in how to hang the work, and an experiment to see if this was something that I could actually do.

Now, fifteen years later, I feel like I am entering my Chapter Two. I am still experimenting, and I love that. Although one could argue that they see a theme within most of these pieces, Sketchbook: Chapter Two is meant to be a look into what I am currently thinking and how I am attempting to represent those thoughts visually.

Most noticeable within this small body of work would probably be the patterns, and the repetition of those patterns. Since I was a little girl, my eye has been drawn to pattern. As an adult, I am still drawn to visual pattern, but I am also drawn to understanding the patterns within our selves. Why do we do the things we do? How do they shape who we are and how we see the world? I am not attempting to answer these questions in these pieces; I am trying to understand.

Despite how silly You Can't Squash My Happiness may seem and how goofy the characters are within it, it's a very personal piece. Even when the darkest, stormiest people arrive in my life, I am looking for the blue sky in them. It's the optimist in me and sometimes when there's no blue sky to be found, it really sucks. Despite this, I will not allow anyone to squash my happiness. We are only here once. No dark clouds will stop me from laughing.

### **Bio**

An impressive collection of striped socks, funky watches, bottle caps and vintage robots are just a few things that make up the world of Maura Cluthe. Talented and introspective, mixed media artist Maura Cluthe integrates text, drawing, photography, painting, and other "stuff" she has collected into her art. These collected fragments take on new meaning and live on within her paintings.

Since graduating from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1993 with a BFA in Illustration, Maura has shown her mixed media works across the country including Kansas City, Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, and Atlanta.

When she isn't hanging out with her husband, she might be doting on her two dogs and cat, digging in the garden, spending time with family and friends or painting in her studio.

Cluthe confidently moves among drawing, painting, digital manipulation, and more to manifest a handsome consortium. -Christopher Leitch, Review Magazine, April 2001

### **Blue Gallery**

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

816.527.0823 voice 816.527.0826 fax BlueGalleryOnline.com website

# Maura Cluthe

*Kansas City, MO*

## Q&A

### **Who has influenced your work, both artistically and personally?**

When I think of who has had the biggest influence on my work, my grandmothers and my art teachers are who come to mind. Both my grandmothers encouraged me to explore and try new things. They were both creative and were always making things for family and friends. I really credit both of them for my desire to try new mediums as well as my appreciation of The Square. My high school art teachers also really influenced how I create. In addition to teaching me how to keep an “idea book”, they also encouraged me to simply have fun with my work and to draw what feels right. I still think of this today when working on my stuff. I try not to rush things and let things come together naturally.

### **Do you think your work has dramatically changed over time? If so, why and how?**

I have felt my work changing, while retaining many things at the same time. I feel like the more I experiment with stuff – whether it’s technique, medium or concept – the clearer my central themes become for me. The central thought remains, but the way it’s delivered varies. Sometimes it’s more serious, other times it’s just silly.

### **Why have you been attracted to the medium you practice in? How do you feel it quenches your need to express, what does it do for you on an emotional level, and why?**

I love mixed media because it can be whatever I need it to be. I primarily use acrylic and other water-based permanent mediums because I like the immediacy of it; I don’t have to wait for it to dry that long and I can work on several pieces at once. At the same time, I like to play with and try lots of different things and revisit ways I’ve worked in the past. I’ve been revisiting using oils again recently and it’s been interesting. It feels familiar, yet at the same time I feel like I’m way out of my comfort zone.

### **While reviewing your work and process do you find that there are any nostalgic throw-backs in your work that were unknown to you or unintentional?**

In the last year or two, I realized that the way I draw and what I draw really hasn’t changed that much. I suppose it’s gotten more refined, but it really made me think of when I was little, and the things I drew then. That’s a pretty cool feeling when it happens.

### **Do you ever consider your role as a woman in art? Do you feel that gender attributes anything to your work?**

I really don’t think about that when I’m making stuff. I’m really just thinking about that central idea/feeling/message that I’m trying to convey. I’m not sure if being a woman attributes anything to my work. I’ve never thought of myself as a “woman artist”, I’ve just thought of myself as an artist who happens to be a woman.



# Maura Cluthe

*Kansas City, MO*

## *Selected Exhibitions*

2011

Sketchbook: Chapter Two • Solo Show • Blue Gallery • Kansas City, MO  
Cloudy Collection • Group Show • Pink Hobo Gallery • Minneapolis, MN  
Narrow Margins • Group Show • ARTSpace • Kansas City, MO  
It's Personal • Group Show • Leedy Voukos Gallery • Kansas City, MO

2010

Mail Me Art 2 • Group Show • Red Gate Gallery • London, UK  
Show the Love • Group Show • Vahalla Studio • Kansas City, MO

2009

XX Chromosome • The Late Show Gallery • Kansas City, MO  
Universal Robots • Manhattan Theatre Source Gallery • New York, NY

2008

Nutz + Boltz: A Robot Show • Yummy Gallery • Seaside, OR  
EUREKA! • Group Show • Imago Gallery • Kansas City, MO  
Old School • Group Show • Uppercase Gallery • Calgary, CA  
Pleased to Meet You • Group Show • TAG Art Gallery • Nashville, TN

2007

AIVO: The Power of Collage • Group Show • Lyndsay McCandless Contemporary • Jackson, WY

2006

Four: Red Crosses, Peregrine Visions • Group Show • Spiva Center for the Arts • Joplin, MO

2005

New At TAG • Group Show • TAG Art Gallery • Nashville, TN  
SUPER! • Collaborative Show • Lunar Boy Gallery • Astoria, OR  
The 5th Chromosome • Group Show • Jackson Street Gallery • Jackson, WY  
Within/Without the Box • Group Show • ARTSPACE Gallery • Jackson, WY

2003

Under Cover: A Book Arts Show • Group Show • The St. Louis Artists Guild • St. Louis, MO

2002

Outside The Lines • Joint Show • Blue Gallery • Kansas City, MO

2001

GRID • Individual Show • The Kansas City Artists Coalition • Kansas City, MO  
INFECT • Group Show • The Green Door Gallery • Kansas City, MO  
Surfacing • Group Show • Blue Gallery • Kansas City, MO

2000

BACKWARD/FORWARD: 1994-1999 • Individual Show • Community Gallery • Kansas City, MO

1999

Emerging Artists 99 • Group Show • Limner Gallery • New York, NY  
FIVE • Group Show • SohoMyriad • Atlanta, GA  
De-faced • Individual Show • Massman Gallery, Rockhurst College • Kansas City, MO

1998

FRAG-MENTS • Individual Show • Artemisia Gallery • Chicago, IL



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*Kansas City, MO*

1997

Kansas City Artists on the Edge • Group Show • Cox Gallery, Drury College • Springfield, MO

1996

Sketchbook: Chapter One • Individual Show • Kansas City Artists Coalition • Kansas City, MO

1994

The Story of One • Individual Show • Midwest Center for the Literary Arts • Kansas City, MO  
Divided • Group Show • Dayton Visual Arts Center • Dayton, OH

## *Publications / Bibliography*

- Contributing artist: Mail Me Art 2, ©2010 Little Chimp Publishing, by Darren DeLieto
- Contributing artist: Old School: Art Inspired by the Aesthetics of 20th Century Education, ©2008 Uppercase Publishing, by Janine Vangool
- Interview: Within/Without the Box, Winter 2005, Splash magazine, by Travis Walker
- Becoming Paintings: Depicting Process, August 2002, Review Magazine, by Hector Casanova
- It's the Principle of the Thing, March 2001, Review Magazine, by Christopher Leitch
- Contributing artist: Making Journals by Hand, ©2000 Rockport Publishing, by Jason Thompson
- 2000 Print Magazine award

