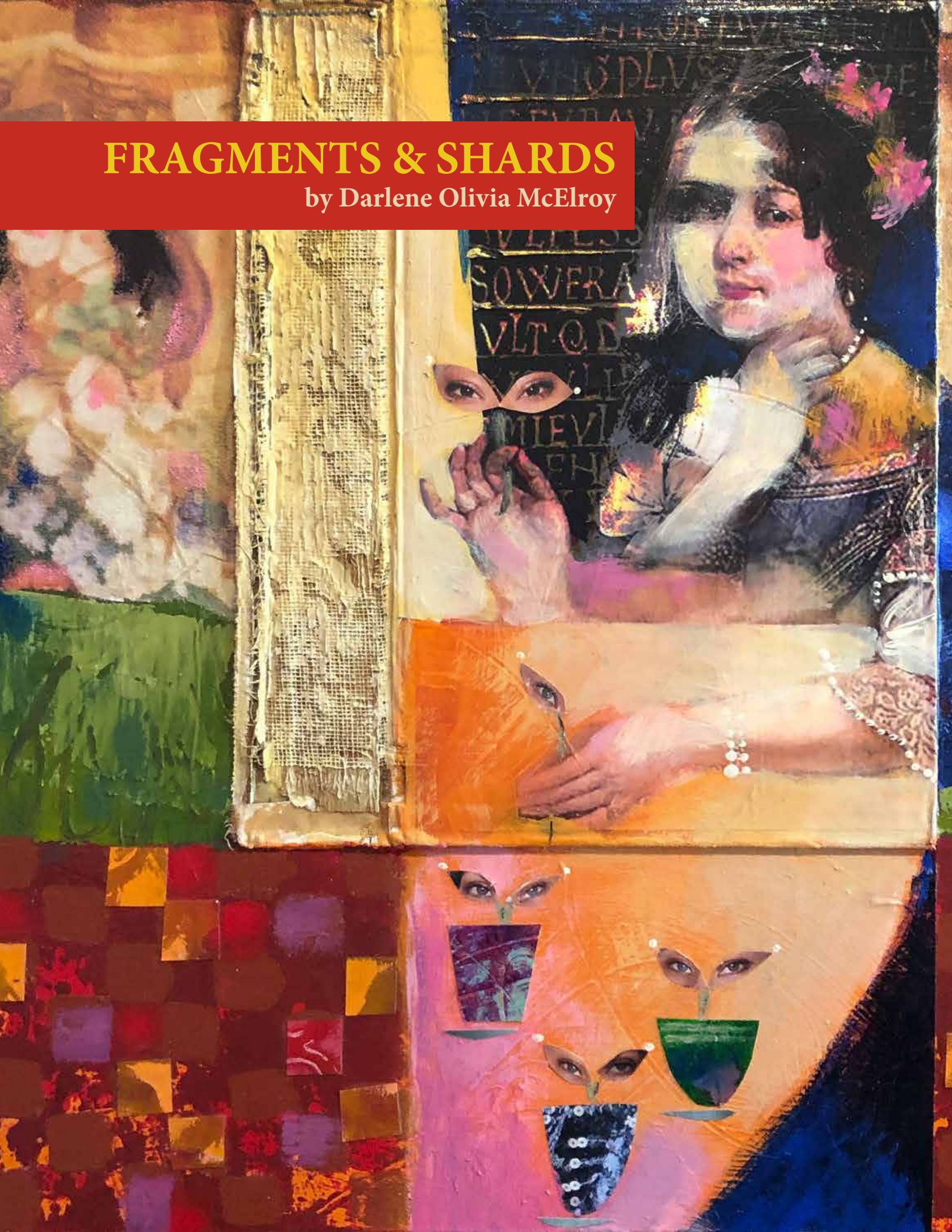


FRAGMENTS & SHARDS

by Darlene Olivia McElroy



Creating energy along with a narrative in a small painting is always a wonderful challenge. These small mixed media paintings are short stories that are perfect for intimate spaces either alone or grouped.



“For me, creating an art piece is like reading Turkish coffee grounds — a story becomes revealed as one looks at the surface, texture and color. Moving around the canvas, one can see the past, present and future of the creation.”

Throughout her career Darlene Olivia McElroy has combined head and heart in her journey of creating evocative mixed-media paintings. Trained as a painter and illustrator, she has an obsession for materials, a passion for dreamlike imagery, and love of new technologies, which she uses to immerse herself in richly-textured surfaces, mixtures of old and new, and brilliant and subdued tones. And always, there is a face or symbol of humanity that serves as a guide into mysterious layers which challenge reason and draw upon emotions.

In addition to being an artist and educator, she has written five art technique books which are testaments to her inherent need to experiment with all types of media. Several of her books have been translated into in German, Chinese and Korean.

She works in a great-room-turned-studio with large windows that let in New Mexico's ubiquitous sunshine, while looking out to a rustic yard, complete with ponds, waterfalls, wisteria-covered arbors and a herd of dogs. Her "casa de chaos" overflows with furniture parts, antique frames, ephemera, and cabinets filled with what she identifies as "S.H.I.T. (second-hand interesting things) that goes into her art.

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Representation:

La Posada de Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM

Rio Bravo Fine Art Gallery, Truth or Consequences, NM

Calliope Gallery, Madrid, NM

Pez Gordo Gallery, Los Cabos, MX

Ugallery.com



*Acrylics, collage,
transfer, paint skins*

Spring Awakening, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

The flowers, butterflies and all the little creep crawlies come out with the burst of spring.
The world is renewed.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
ephemera, paint
skins*

New Future, New Eyes, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Often just changing our state of mind and looking at the world with a new set of eyes, gives us a new future.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
ephemera*

Dream Time, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Being alone is not loneliness, it is giving yourself the time to experience more fully what is around you.



*Acrylics, collage,
cast objects, stencils,
ephemera*

On the Edge, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

He was on the edge of a big decision that could change his life in good or bad ways. He closed his eyes and took the leap.



*Acrylics, collage,
transfer, paint skins*

Time Flew in Venice, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

My trips to Venice, the city of dreams, are in my distant past but are still alive and vivid memories.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
fabric, ephemera*

Wearing Her Heart on Her Sleeve, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

She waited for him with her heart on her sleeve, hoping he would return to her.

Technique: Clay Monoprints

Using affordable, groutless white clay, you can create monoprints without the hassles of cleanup and a printing press. This works well on different kinds of paper and fabric.

Painting

Starting by rolling out a small slab of the clay. Paint the surface and immediately lay your paper over the clay and use a brayer or rolling pin to get a good print. Peel off. Experiment.



Sample of painting on clay with acrylic paint.



Make print while the paint is still wet.

Carving & Painting

Starting by rolling out a small slab of the clay. Scribe into the clay with different tools or stamp into it. Paint the surface and immediately lay your paper over the clay and use a brayer or rolling pin to get a good print. Peel off. You can get multiple prints with the scribed lines but they will flatten out a little each time.



You can cleanly carve the lines or have them rough.



The prints make great collage elements.

Surface Techniques

Layering techniques always makes a piece of art more interesting. The clay monoprint can be the base of the art or used as a collage element. I will often spend a day making these monoprints so I have drawers full of these wonderful textures to use in my art.



Layering is also more interesting.



Print over a solid color.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects*

Adornment, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Whether at home or out on the town, she had the need to dress up and adorn herself. It was her art form.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional & cast
objects, stencils*

Golden Moment, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

There is a golden moment between waking and sleeping where the dreams are sliding off into oblivion and the sun is rising over your eye lids.



*Acrylics, collage,
ephemera, paint
skins*

Music Fills the Air, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Sitting in the plaza in Guanajuato, she sipped her margarita and listened to the old man playing music on his guitar.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
tin, fabric, thread*

Hiding in the Garden, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

No one can find you in the garden if you are as colorful as the flowers around you.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
gold leaf*

Snake Charmer, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

While she looked studious and prim, she also had a wild side that charmed snakes and wore exotic clothes and probably dreamt of opium dens.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins*

Big Bad Bee Lover, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

He was a Renaissance man who planted trees, took care of bees and was madly in love with Gaia. She did not ignore him.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
transfer, ephemera*

Harvesting Halos, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

If you thought saints and angels were born with halos, you are wrong. They are harvested then handed out as rewards.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins*

Here Today, Gone Tomorrow, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

Here he is at his doorstep. Then one day “poof”, his ghostly image leaves the house.



Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins

The End, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

There is a beginning, middle and end to all relationships. Some are meant for the moment or for a particular time of life while others are meant forever.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins*

Behind the Veil, 12" x 12", mixed media on panel

She wore a mask that she hid behind, letting people judge her exterior while protecting her inner child.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins*

Pinkie, Juicy Fruit, Eye on the Dots, Cha Cha, 8" x 8", mixed media on panel

There is a never ending story behind each and every one of us.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins*

Beauty, Early Herbalist, Mr. Smoke & Whiskey, Music Man, 8" x 8", mixed media on panel

I use to think when I was a child that color was born with me and the world was black and white before my birth.



*Acrylics, collage,
deconstructed
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins*

Pretty in Pink, Swimming Under the Stars, Goddess, Oh Yeah, 8" x 8", mixed media on panel

The beauty of humanity is that there are so many colors, cultures, traditions and flavors.



*Acrylics, collage,
dimensional objects,
stencils, ephemera,
paint skins.*

*Power in the Feminine, Flower Power, Flower Child, Lost Summer Days,
6" x 6", mixed media on panel*

We all project a certain drama. Some of us have a strong presence while others are soft and dream like. What is yours?



Books, Tutorials & Videos

Darlene Olivia McElroy's five books are available at Amazon.com. and on iTunes. Her free Goddess series and her latest five ibooks can be found there also.

Technique specific tutorials can be found at Darlene's Etsy shop - [MixedMediaWorkshop](#).

Mixed media video tutorials by Darlene are available on [YouTube](#).

To see more of her art and sign up for her monthly e-newsletter, visit her website at [DarleneOliviaMcElroy.com](#).