

CARRIE BUCALO

HEART COLLECTION 2021

Copyright ©Carrie Bucalo 2021, All rights reserved.

This material may be downloaded, printed, or stored for personal use by permission of the author. But no part of this material may be sold or used for sale in any form without the prior written permission of the copyright owner/author.

HEART COLLECTION 2021



Carrie began painting her heart collection in 2018 to represent the different moods, dispositions, vulnerabilities, and desires of the feminine heart. Over the last three years, a variety of hearts have emerged: *Wounded, Guarded, Nocturnal, Olympic, Healed, and Fruitful.*

These hearts are part of an ongoing collection, and it is Carrie's hope that they will contribute in some way to the legacy of natural and supernatural beauty of women everywhere.

*Heart Collection Photograph by Jessica Rhine Photography

Wounded

Watercolor on Cold Press



Coiled tightly around a green and tender heart this serpent is reminiscent of Eden. Our innocence is often lost in our earliest memories of this fallen world. Our growth is restricted and sometimes crushed. We say that we are free to love, but our hearts do not lie. If we have the eye and the skill, we can discern where healthy vines grow and twisted tails end. If we are honest, we will admit that there is a force around us that wants to keep our love small.

Yet there is something greater still; there is an *Original Love* which sustains and nurtures our hope like rays of the sun. Leaves and delicate blossoms emerge from within to greet this primordial light. They seem to tell us another story.

If we reach for the *Light* and become a tree, we can outgrow the serpent.

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me”

Matthew 16:24

Guarded

Watercolor on Cold Press



Anyone who has been betrayed, abandoned, or abused knows what the heart does to protect itself from further harm. It closes up, sometimes entirely. The ribcage locks itself and grows horns to prepare the heart for future battles. The heart's vibrancy is drained to a pale pink. Where love should have flowed, there protrudes a boney handle. It is clear this heart has been weaponized. It is no longer a vessel of love. It can smash, pierce, and slash.

But there is beauty inside. This beauty grows and blooms with a message from the depths of the heart that says: "I can open again! I am made to love!"

A heart-shaped key can unlock the guarded heart.

"Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"

Matthew 18:18

Nocturnal

Glow in the Dark Paint on Cold Press



The heart's dark night can frighten anyone who is accustomed to the light of day. With senses stripped and deprived of their ordinary functions, the only thing imaginable is a deeper shade of night. Intense loneliness sets in. Our memories of the day cannot bring back the light but only seem to wound us further.

The heart beats, unseen. Nothing changes. We try everything in our power to end the night. It takes time for us to remember that we are created beings, unable to produce light on our own. Only then are we ready for a relationship with the Light. Then suddenly, like a creature from the deep, our heart is filled with light, like the gift of bioluminescence.

The night will never be the same for the heart that can glow in the dark.

“On my bed at night I sought him whom my heart loves---

I sought him but I did not find him”

Song of Songs 3:1

Olympic

Acrylic on Canvas



There are moments when we choose to love God freely and the course of human history is changed forever. Quite often God draws a hidden starting line for the race to his heart. There is no competition; no one knows the race is about to start. God calls each by name. He pulls the trigger, and the heart takes off like an Olympic runner.

The pace is personal and unrepeatable, but the finish line is always marked by a sword of flaming fire. It cannot be crossed without giving it your all. If won, the taste of victory is sweeter than honey. The reward for a victorious heart is gold, silver, and bronze.

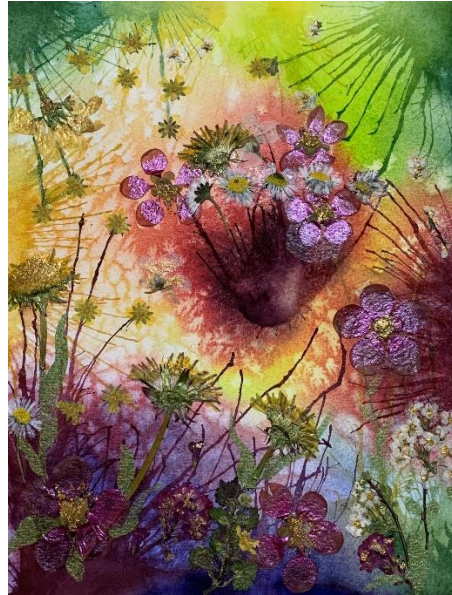
If we run the race, we can bear the Standard of an Olympic heart.

*“(Rahab) tied the scarlet cord in the window...
Joshua spared her with her family and all her kin,
who continue in the midst of Israel to this day”*

Joshua 2:21, 6:25

Healed

Watercolor, Acrylic, and Pressed Flowers on Cold Press



Healing is a transformation, a resurrection. It is the realization of the heart's deepest desire, whether big or small, visible or invisible. Healing lifts us from the darkness of our wounds and takes us upwards into the light. Although it can suspend us in the realm of the miraculous, God's restorative work is always a grounding experience, rooted in everything he created and called 'good.'

Here the heart is transported in full bloom, surrounded by all the experiences that shaped it. From this vantage point we can see that there were more blessings, more treasures, and more beautiful moments sustaining us in our times of trial than we ever realized.

Only love can measure the heart's true worth.

"So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love"

1 Corinthians 13:13

Fruitful

Watercolor on Cold Press



A fruitful heart is ultimately open, beautiful, and vulnerable. Anything can touch it, wound it, and hold it. The heart chooses this openness because it has learned that it cannot fully love if it is caged in. It must beat in the open! It can only be a gift to another if it is free and accessible.

This heart is sustained by fire. The trappings of Eden are burned away. Nothing can stop its passion and growth. It accepts the hardships that surround it like a crown of thorns because it refuses to abandon the ones it loves.

A heart given to God as a votive offering produces the hundred-fold.

*“And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters
or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name
will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life”*

Matthew 19:29