



Self Portrait  
12" x 14" Oil on  
Repurposed Aluminum Sign

## Artist Statement

Unformally-taught creator of figurative, figurative abstract and intuitive artworks; a rebelliously-human artist expressing life using a variety of styles and mediums.

## Exhibitions

- For the Love of Kettle “Thicc in the Streets” February 10 2024 Kettle Art Gallery
- For the Love of Artists “Everything She Touches Changes” February 17, 2024 Kettle Art Gallery
- Kettle Art Gallery March 2014
- Arthash “In the Comments” Kettle Art Gallery March 2023
- FIDA xTiffany xElsa Peretti during Art Basel Miami 2022 VIP event hosted at Instituto Marangoni with Nando & Elsa Peretti Foundation and With Love Halston December 2022
- FIDA Summer Art Exhibition [Art in Fashion](#) June 2022
- FIDA x Halston at [National Arts Club NYC](#) April 2022
- “Shaun Jordan Balenciaga” [FIDA Awards 4 Winner Classical 2021](#)
- “Plastic Diver” included with world-record collage at [cryxelinf.t.art](#)
- “Her Name Was” Artist’s Circle Gallery at [Gallery 8680](#) scheduled for May 2021
- Multiple Artworks in-game at [Occupy White Walls and Kultura](#)
- Live Drawing at David Sutherland Gallery for Fortuny Fabrics launch
- “In the Pavement” Artist Circle Gallery Orange Exhibit 2020
- “Brothers” State Fair of Texas 2018 Creative Arts Competition Blue Ribbon winner
- Live Painting EarthX 2016-2018 for National Audubon Society/Audubon Texas
- Booth Show and Live Portrait Drawing at Lakewood Summer Arts Fair 2017
- “Fairytale” at ArtConX 2016
- “Akhenanten” For the Love of Kettle Art show Febbruary 2015
- “Ghosts of Gaia” Haunted Gallery at Basement Gallery 2015
- Booth Show at The Pancakes and Booze Art Show 2014
- “Twenty Seven” Projection ADC Miami 2014 via Hungry Castle/Laser Cat

## Publications

Regular contributor to a variety of fashion and art periodicals

## Interview

[Donna Tallent](#)

## Online

[BeSoArt.com](#), [@besoart444](#)

# ARTIST STATEMENT

Betty Southerland  
BeSoArt.com



Betty Southerland is a life-long serious amateur and independent student of the arts, un-formally trained; learning mostly from observation and practice using life drawing and the costumed figure as a vehicle for self expression and cryptic storytelling.

Betty makes figurative, abstract, expressionist art using bold/experimental styles and techniques; trusting her intuition. She works with dry media, watercolor, pastels, acrylics, and oils using figures painted/drawn from live online themed life-drawing sessions featuring emerging and established performers in dance, drag, aerialist, theater, cabaret, modeling and fashion design via Drawing Cabaret Couture. She also works from life, photos, memories, concepts and feelings with both abstract and figurative elements.



Betty is interested in exploring the transformational power of art saying, “Making art feeds my soul allowing me to express, heal, connect and explore humanity; honoring the human experience and celebrating art in all forms”. Her paintings and drawings explore personal and universal themes through movement, form, tactile experience, and the power of color; filtered through her perspective of the moment considering her life experiences, universal themes, feelings, mood, music, movies, current events, memories, etc. The content is a spontaneous interpretation of the artmaking experience; a diary, a storytelling device, and visual evidence of art as a living, breathing, giving thing.



Abstracts like “Wolf Beach” or “The Reckoning” began in a detached meditative state and evolved subconsciously into a narrative figurative abstract painting. The stories are enhanced by changing the direction of hanging.

Betty believes we are all connected to everything. She expresses that theme through making “Self Portraits of Other People” with a desire to surprise, frighten, delight, challenge, and uplift you enough that you also see yourself in them.