

Cynthia Hellyer Heinz

Brief Biography



I am a full time artist and teacher. My Husband of thirty years, a potter, and I work out of our home studio in Warrenville, Illinois. It is a place of creative dust.

I have always been making art and am fortunate enough to have parents who recognized and encouraged my work. At age seven I began taking classes at the Art Institute of Chicago.

I earned a bachelors in Fine Arts from Pratt Institute. In the year 2000 I received my M.F.A. from Northern Illinois University and have been teaching drawing there full time.

Cynthia Hellyer Heinz

I became involved with the health field.

Through investigation of the physical effects of time on the body, I found a fascination with aging flesh.

Not only am I observing age on the human anatomy but time's impact on the organic matter around.

I am a committed gardener and often watch as the tomatoes ripen, to rot, to seed, to regeneration. I witness the same cyclic effect on the matter of fabric and flesh.

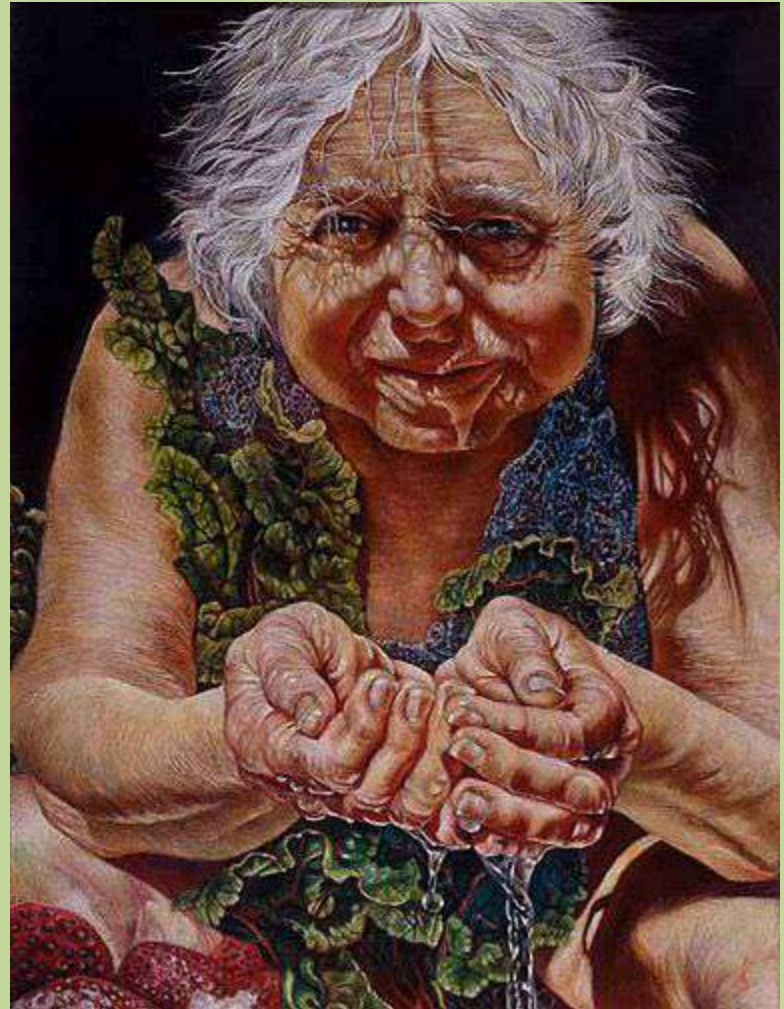


Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



My family and the nature surrounding my studio have become the resource for my visual vocabulary. I am inspired by continuous changes observed through inner connectedness felt by engaging time and the positive metamorphosis of the body and spirit. It is possible to see the full potential of life in nature and I find it imperative to offer this image to the viewer through drawing.

Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



All the drawings are done using a variety of color pencils on paper. I work gradually, building layers of light and dark until the form emerges into saturated color.

Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz

Self-Imposed Chaos



This is a drawing that screams confrontation. The figure in the center is pulling the panty hose away from her head as she angrily challenges the images of constructed beauty, with the feet ripping through the pantyhose, pressing into the bustier. Self-imposed implies a collaboration with the insistence of a specific way of presenting self in accordance with the cultural rules of attraction. Behind the figure's head a winged creature is taking flight escaping the chaos created and accepted by sublimating the gifts of one's own internal nature. This denial of individual qualities leads to a fury expressed by the scream.

Cynthia Hellyer Heinz

Sentimental Venture of Time,

Decaying Flesh

Leaving the Petrified Core Vessel
As Evidence of Being



The legs splayed, impaled by the reclining rid cage, a vessel, empty yet the center piece for an enigmatic narrative: the conflict between the sentiment of romantic flesh, alive and the image of what remains when all viable flesh has decomposed. This is intentionally dark, forensic with symbols of aging matter, the vegetation rotting contradicting the lace suggesting innocence past and abandoned.

Cynthia Hellyer Heinz

FETAL POWER

Fetal Power emerges from it's reptilian brain to consume nature. There exists a place in the human brain that controls survival mechanisms . This location is called the reptilian part of the brain and is without a conscience, without awareness of behavioral consequences. The void of awareness allows humans to act ruthlessly in their consumption of the nature. The literal consumption and destruction of the environment causes the connection between humanity and nature to be severed, all potential growth lost and humanity remains a fetus, vulnerable, not fully formed. This piece offers question of place. Do we remain the fetus, allowing the reptilian brain rampant voyage over nature or do we consider the consequences and make change?



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Power Gripped within the Light of Nature Christened

This has the shape of an alter piece. The adult feet are held in a birthing position.

A hand is pressing the feet into the luminous, ripening, reproductive flesh of the squash. Set outside the glorious green containment is the bustier, a metaphor for constructed beauty. A focal point is centered within the core, where a boot embellished with feathers is obscured by natural elements. The visual narrative is telling of creation, reproduction and the ritualistic celebration of nature through releasing the unnatural. By the location of symbols of artifice, below and outside, power is generated into the glorification of nature. The acknowledgement being in unity with nature allows full development of creative potential.

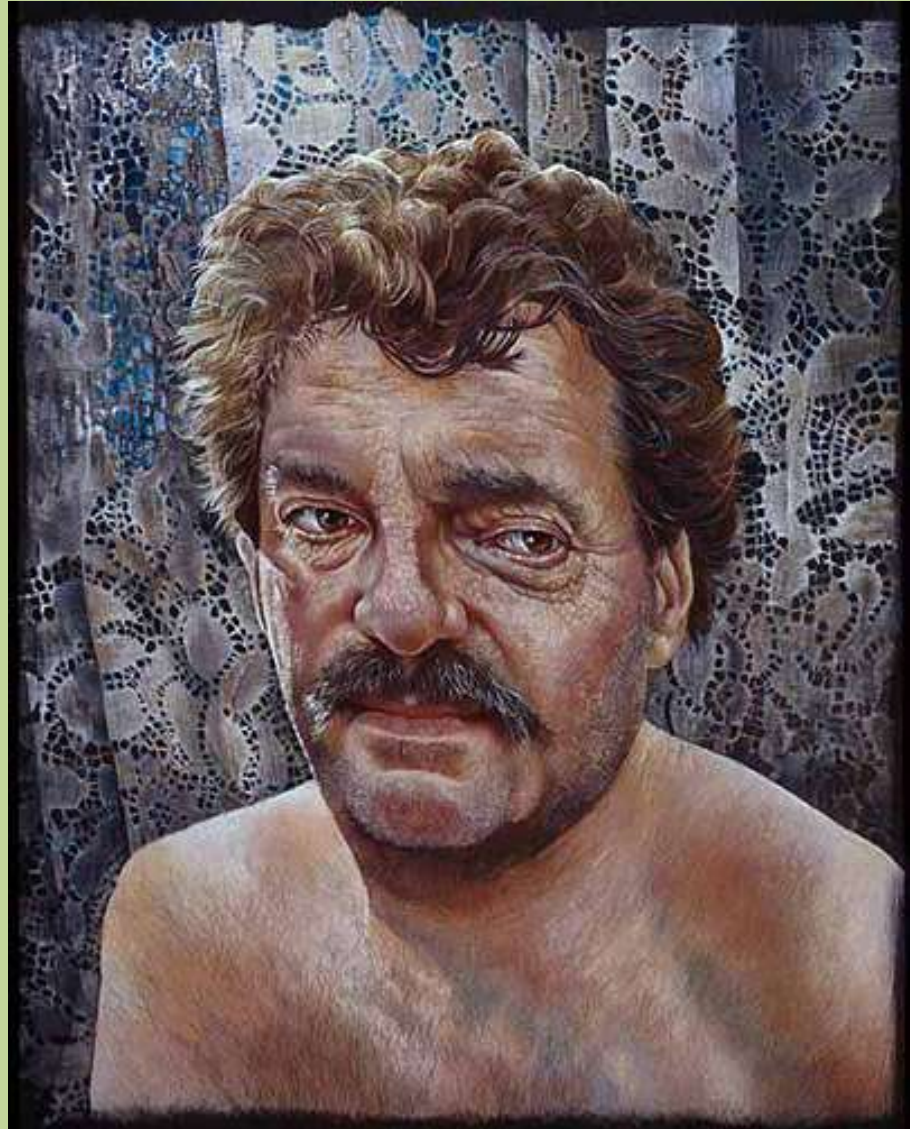
Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



Cynthia Hellyer Heinz



EDIBLE COERCION RITUAL OF DECORATIVE BIRTH

Embellished with feathers, the adult feet are held in the birthing position, tense and reluctant to emerge into the ritual of expected maturity. The feet transform into jaw bones, emblematic of the anticipated desiccating aging process

Cynthia Hellyer Heinz

