

C2C

Jennifer Soott, Artist

Created to Create Studios, LLC

From broken and lost to purpose and identity! My creative work is visual diary of reinventing myself and rebuilding my life. My story is one that is relatable no matter where someone might be on their personal journey.



What's the Story?

An update from Jenny at Created to Create Studios

In my inaugural newsletter, I mentioned having some significant revelations and breakthroughs. A divine guidance, if you will, that is-ever-so-slightly altering the direction of my work. I'm not exactly sure what the entire future is supposed to look like just yet, but I do feel as if I'm on the right path for the first time in forever!

I never tried to hide the fact that I felt art to be a calling from God and to be used for His purposes. But I didn't exactly shout about my spiritual position from the rooftops to everyone that crossed my path either. I kept all that "God stuff" to a nice, safe, gentle undertone when it came to most of my art and the words I chose to share. I feared pushing away potential clients and collectors if I were too vocal about my spirituality and the impact my relationship with God has on my life.

I'm not exactly sure what has happened since the start of the year, but I know God has moved me to create some specific work in some crazy combination of the styles that bring the most creative freedom and joy to my process. I am now sharing bits and pieces of my personal story within my work. I know that my art and my workshops are to be used as a conduit to share specific parts of my story. I am to use my art and my personal story to connect with the viewer. I am to share the message of transformation and hope that can only come from our Creator himself.

For years I have felt God call me to do my "workshops with a positive message" to speak healing, love and life into others. But it wasn't until very recently that I was shown a way to paint things I loved while still sharing my experiences, my personal testimony

of growth and transformation, and the many stories of severe storms and beautiful rainbows that are my proof of what faith and hope can do!

So if you are like I was and have not yet made the connection that ART IS A HOLY CALLING, let me ask you a few simple questions...

What was the very first “verb” ever mentioned in the Bible? Think about it. Go all the way back to the very beginning... way back to Genesis 1:1. “In the beginning, God CREATED...” How in the world could I have ever thought that creating art was unimportant and just some small insignificant thing - when CREATING is the very first thing God ever did?! MINDBLOWING!!!

Shortly after that, The Creator of the Universe creates *us* in His image and then turns around and immediately invites us into the creative process with him! God did this after he breathed his life (and creativity) into Adam and then gave him the opportunity to create names for all the animals. From the very beginning, we were indeed, “Created to Create.” AWESTRUCK!

Oh, one more fun fact! (I attended the Created to Thrive Conference for Christian artists this past week, so I have an overflow of cool stuff bouncing around in my brain right now!) But anyway...Guess who the very FIRST person to ever be “filled with the Spirit of God!” Not just the Spirit upon him...but Spirit WITHIN him! Give up? Go read Exodus 35 starting at verse 30. Bezalel was chosen by the Lord to be filled with the Spirit of God! And Bezalel was filled with God’s Spirit to do what??? To make artistic designs!! FLABBERGASTED!! (That’s such a fun word!)

I’m guessing that for most of you, these are probably just fun little trivia tidbits about art being mentioned in the Bible. To me personally, it’s so much more! Between the Creative to Thrive mentoring program, the CTT conference, and just this morning – a teaching by my amazing Pastor, Robbie DeMarigny, about releasing fear and following God’s calling! ANSWERING GOD’S CALL! It has been one confirmation after another lately! I am finally living within my purpose and it’s time to trust God more fully than I ever have before! I’m honestly blown away by the vision and guidance I have been receiving in my moments of quiet with God! The time has come for me to be bolder about the “WHY” behind my original art and my workshop topics. I am fully trusting God!! This may very well may push some people away...but I am believing that, more importantly, it will draw in the people who need to see it and who need to receive a message of hope and transformation!

I hope that the directness of my message and purpose will actually somehow become a blessing to you – and that you will continue to follow along on the journey.

I’m so excited to see what the future brings....



From The Studio

God may have made me to be creative, but it's up to me to develop the skills needed to do something with that creativity. For that reason, I have joined the Creative to Thrive year-long Christian Artist Mentoring Program and virtually attended their conference March 3rd-6th. If God is calling me to art – I want to give it my all. So I will continue educating myself and honing in on my skills so God can use me as fully as possible!

I have been doing my best to spend a little time each day in the studio painting (as symptoms allow.) So many sketch ideas have been given to me through divine inspiration – but I am only done with the first five. I am currently working on number six – which carries the message of willingness. Willingness to completely let go of what used to hold you back in order to fly free and reach heights beyond your wildest imagination! It's still really difficult to not be sharing the paintings – but you'll learn my reasons why in a video blog being released on 4/2/21!

From the Gallery

Sales have slowed since I haven't been posting any new work. Sales included 2 smaller original "close out" paintings, one print. I haven't really been promoting the customer merchandise store much but have sold one shower curtain and one tapestry in the past month. Weighing the limited merchandise sales against the cost of doing business with the third-party provider, we are anticipating the closure of our custom creations store by April's end. Once the decision is final, announcements will be made on social media and via email so people can get any last minute orders in!

From the Ministry

A huge thank you to Barbara Franco, Margie McBride, and Caryn Kolodziej, for taking the time to provide testimonials about their recent workshop experiences! Their testimonials have been added to the workshop page of my site! If any other past hosts or attendees would like to send a written or video-taped review of their experience, please contact me!





Had a great time on Wednesday evening, March 3rd, facilitating a C2C workshop for the spouses of first responders, hosted by The Well Resource Center. Together we did a simple art activity that opened us up to the idea that our individual brokenness is what uniquely qualifies us to be used by God for very specific purposes! We created an opportunity to collect personal evidence that “Broken Crayons Still Color” and that God uses broken crayons to create some of His most breathtaking masterpieces! It was a fun evening and an exciting glimpse of a slow return of “normalcy” in our lives!

If you are interested in hosting a simple 1 hour art activity or 2 hour painting workshop for your group or organization – or are looking for a speaker and activity for your next conference, retreat, or special event – please contact me for more detailed information!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SALE: Plans are currently in the works to have a special blow out sale for original paintings that have no commonality with the pieces I am currently creating and invest that back into the direction of Created to Created going forward. (Think abstracts, multimedia, watercolors, etc.) I’m still determining whether it would be better to host a virtual “live” event or an outdoor “tent show” in my yard once the weather turns warmer. I will keep you all updated once a decision has been made!

SHOW: Two of my pieces, “Running Low” and “Trapped Within” were chosen to be included in the virtual Art of Possibilities Show and Sale! The show runs from April 21st through May 14th and opens with a reception on Wednesday, April 21st at 6PM at www.CourageArt.com

ART OF
Possibilities
ART SHOW & SALE

REFLECTIONS

I don’t know about you, but I get so busy I often forget to look at each day as a gift. But I recently started a new practice and it’s been completely changing how I go into my days! We have room darkening curtains in our bedroom. So every morning I wake up like a child on Christmas morning! I thank God for my eyes opening and excitedly as “what else?!” I then imagine God telling me to unwrap my day. I open the curtains that until that very moment, had carefully hidden the beautiful gift of the day that God was surprising me with. I always thank God for the gift (no matter what weather I may see out my window, lol) and like a child exclaim.... “Oh, thank you, God! It’s just what I wanted! Can you show me how to use it?! I can’t wait!!!”

LOOK AT EACH DAY LIKE THE PRECIOUS AND BEAUTIFUL GIFT THAT IT IS!!!