



Renée Bouchard

Lifeboat (Not Square), 2015

Oil, watercolor, acrylic, metal spoon, plastic lid, pencil shavings, glitter, red ball point pen, graphite and burlap on canvas

Opening Bid: \$2,500

Artist Statement

My paintings are simultaneously invented landscapes and mindscapes derived from memory and experience. *Lifeboat (Not Square)* is evocative of a mysterious labyrinth or complex cave. I was inspired to use glitter, as Moses did, to capture the magical quality of “make believe.” Playing the role of the archetypical child, I begin by doodling. Color is the machine that organizes it. Ultimately, I strive to integrate my life and art making.

I believe it is my ethical responsibility to be resourceful with materials. Media used for my recent works are often gifts, found, or sentimental. The stretched canvas for *Lifeboat (Not Square)* was given to me because it wasn't perfectly square. As Moses used jar lids and spoons to mix paint rather than a traditional palette, so do I. There is a lid, spoon, and other studio detritus attached to the surface of my painting as my creative process is similar to the old New England saying that I grew up with, “Use up, wear out, do with or do without”.

I make use of the perceived limitations of motherhood thru collaborative experimentation with children, especially my 3-year old son, and by so doing I am able to widen my visual vocabulary while emphasizing the importance of early childhood education. I see children's art as the earliest and most abstract search for language. As in Zen painting, one mark is capable of containing many aspects of human presence. Escaping the confines of one reality and entering a new reality is often where I find meaning within the complexity of the mind and the emotions it houses.