

**Lis Zadavec**  
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Lis Zadavec's extraordinary and inspirational award-winning artwork, created primarily in colored pencil, expresses poignant human expression. Her subjects reveal themselves with their vulnerabilities and their strengths. The artist's innate skills are combined with superb detail and composition, masterful treatment of facial features and hands, a myriad of textures, and articulated light and shadow. Her style is reminiscent of the masterful illustrations and paintings of generations past. She demonstrates an uncanny ability to master her medium.

Born in Washington DC, Lis Zadavec began taking art at age four. By 10, she was painting in the adult program at the Corcoran School of Art. She states, "I was lucky to have a mother who took seriously, at such a young age, that I wanted to be an artist." An artist in a family of writers, she learned to strive for perfection from her poet-mother, explaining, "No matter how long, till every word, or stroke is right." For Zadavec, success has a different definition: It means striving for excellence.

Her standards of excellence have been confirmed by many curators and jurors. She has received many top awards. She recently received the First Place Cash Award in the Manhattan Arts International HERStory online exhibition competition. She also received a First Place Award in portraiture at a respected local show with the Montgomery Art Association and First Place and Best-in-Show ribbons across the Mid-Atlantic region. Her work has also been juried into important exhibitions including the Strathmore Mansion and Hill Center in DC. Her piece, "Little Wing" won First Place at the Fairfax Arts Festival. She won first place in the Colored Pencil Society of America's District Chapter Show for her piece "Looking Back".

She has received publicity in many different publications. The artist has been featured in *The Line* magazine in the UK and *Elan* magazine in Virginia, and in *Color* a national magazine. She is currently the featured artist in the Australian Society of Coloured Pencil Artists. She has a chapter in the book *Draw Portraits in Colored Pencil*. Her article on the subject of art competitions was published in *Professional Artist* magazine.

Always drawn to portraiture, Zadavec's first expertise was in using oils. She has since then perfected a method using colored pencils that is more like the Maroger oil painting technique she was trained in. The greatest compliment to her is when her work is interpreted as painting. The pure pigment in the wax/oil-based stick of colored pencil is just the vehicle with which you apply it to a surface. Her work is many layers deep. She explains, "Like adding glazes in oil, layers of color are applied with heavy pressure." She achieves a stunning painting-like surface, as a result of her detailed and lengthy process, which has been compared to the meditative work of iconographers. In fact, she has devoted herself to creating colored pencil art that will stand next to any oil portrait.

Lis Zadavec explains, "The years spent waiting for the world to grasp onto my passion for my media, have been time refining a skill and finding a voice. A voice that gets stronger with each piece." She continues, "Every picture is a story. Like a writer creating a character, I work in narratives that press further into my subject than mere likeness."

## **Lis Zadavec**

### **ARTIST STATEMENT:**

In life, who we become is a formula of potential against adversity. It is my life story. It is yours. It is my fascination. So I draw stories. Narrative Portraiture is my genre, colored pencil is my medium. I often draw girls and women because these are the stories I know best. In my narrative portraits, you may see what someone looked like as a child, before the moment you knew the story or at a place of decision. I sometimes call them Girl Heroes because becoming the woman I was meant to be against all odds is the story I know best. Telling it through narrative portrait, whether fictional or based in literature or history, I show what is heroic in us all. It could be my writer-family-genes that impel me to approach my artwork like a writer creating characters. I render them realistically but in the modern century media of colored pencils. I believe there is nothing that this pigment in its precision pointed stick, can't do or that oil paint could do better. My competitive nature is out to prove that. I still approach my work like a painter. Layering in the old-school oil painterly way. Never striving for photo-realism, I love to see the artist's hand in work. Like that perfect, genius brush stroke in a master's painting, you will see all of my pencil marks, if possible. I want to inspire. Not only with what a media can do, but what a person can do. After all, a well-trained artist is a person who can do anything.

### **EDUCATION:**

1981-83 The Corcoran College of Arts & Design, Wash, DC,  
Fine Arts with Bill Newman, Dean of Painting  
1980 Montgomery College, Rockville, MD, Fine Arts with Edwin Ahlstrom  
1978-79 Bethesda Beauty Academy, Licensed Cosmetologist  
1977-78 American University, Washington, DC, Fine Arts & Design  
1977 graduated from Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, Bethesda, MD  
Fine Arts Center for Montgomery  
1970-71 The Corcoran College of Art & Design, Wash, DC, Open Program  
Fine Arts with Eric Rudd, founder of the WPA

### **AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS & EXHIBITS:**

2023 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Drawing, & Honorable Mention in Portraiture, 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Club of Chevy Chase Show  
2022 juried into Hudson Valley Art Assoc. 88th Annual Juried Exhibit  
2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in Drawing at the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterford Show  
2021 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Drawing at the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterford Show  
2021 Best in Show, Strathmore Mansion's 30th Annual Juried Show, "Touch"  
2020 March Featured & Cover Artist for Color Magazine  
2020 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner the Art List monthly competition February  
2020 LightSpaceTime Figurative Competition, 10<sup>th</sup> Place & Merit Award  
2019 juried into Hudson Valley Art Assoc. 86th Annual Juried Exhibit  
2019 chosen for a Strathmore Mansion Invitational gallery solo exhibition  
2019 chosen for CP Treasures VI, Global Masterpieces book  
2018 awarded Best Loudoun Artist and 1<sup>st</sup> place in both the Drawing & Mixed Media categories at the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Waterford Fair Fine Art Exhibit  
2018 Finalist in the 10th Annual Expressions Portraiture competition  
2018 2nd place Kensington (Best in Show) category, Kensington Labor Day Show  
2018 Award of Excellence, Manhattan Arts International New Beginnings exhibition

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### **AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS & EXHIBITS (cont.):**

2018 received Signature Status with CPCA  
2018 Friend's Choice Award at FPAC Summer Challenge exhibit  
2018 2<sup>nd</sup> place in TheArtList.com's National monthly competition  
2018 juried into the Hill Center's Annual Juried Regional Exhibition  
2018 1<sup>st</sup> place, Drawing, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Portraiture & Honorable Mention, Mixed Media, 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Club of Chevy Chase Show  
2018 4 pieces juried into the CPSA DC109's Beyond the Line Exhibit in Annapolis, 2 of them used in all the local papers and publicity.  
2018 2 pieces juried into the Strathmore Mansion's Poe & Puck exhibit  
2017 article "Striving for Excellence" published in Ann Kullberg's blog  
2017 published in Ann Kullberg's CP Treasures Vol. 5  
2017 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Drawing & 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Mixed Media at the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual Waterford Show  
2017 Finalist in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Artspace Herndon Portraiture Competition  
2017 awarded membership grant and 1 year promotion from Manhattan Arts International  
2017 Feature article in Elan Magazine  
2017 Australian Society of Coloured Pencil Artists, Featured Artist  
2017 Artfixed 45 Traditional Artists to Watch  
2017 juried into The Hill Center's Regional Juried Exhibit  
2017 1st Place in Manhattan International's HERStory Exhibit  
2017 Honorable Mention in Portraiture at the 42nd Annual WCCC show  
2017 Juried into Colored Pencil Society of America's Explore This 13 Show, 3<sup>rd</sup> acceptance, earning CPX signature member status with CPSA  
2017 Juried into Strathmore Mansion's 26th annual show "La Vie en Bleu"  
2016 Juried into Figuratively Speaking at Gallery Underground in Crystal City  
2016 Finalist in the 8th annual Artspace Herndon Portraiture Competition  
2016 3rd place in Portraiture at the Kensington Labor Day Art Show  
2016 Featured Artist Montgomery Art Association  
2016 Featured Artist for Strathmore UK's The Line, first issue  
2016 Article on competitions published in Professional Artist magazine Jun issue  
2016 Featured Artist, Loudoun Sketch Club  
2016 1st place in Drawing at the Artful Living Show, Fairfax Art Festival  
2016 Artist chosen for the Mayor of Herndon's Volunteer Appreciation Night  
2016 1st Place in Mixed Media & honorable mention in Portraiture at the 41st Annual Women's Club of Chevy Chase Show  
2016 juried into MD Federation of Art Stormy Weather Show  
2016 published as a featured artist in the book "Draw Portraits in Colored Pencil"  
2016 Featured Artist for Artsy Shark  
2016 juried into Colored Pencil Society of America's Explore This 12 Show  
2016 chosen for the CPSA selected members exhibit Line by Line at the Strathmore work was used on posters, website and invitation  
2015 Honorable Mention Yellow Barn Members Show, Glen Echo, MD  
2015 Honorable Mention Franklin Park Plein Air Pastoral Show  
2015 Kamen Grand Prize at the Wheaton Arts Festival  
2015 1st Place CPSA DC Metro Chapter 109 Members Show  
2015 2nd Place/Mixed Media & Honorable Mention/Drawing 72nd annual Waterford Show

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### **AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS & EXHIBITS (cont.):**

- 2015 Honorable Mention MAA Labor Day Art Show, Portraits
- 2015 Public Vote winner for Strathmore UK Water-themed competition
- 2015 Best in Show at the Franklin Park Gifts From the Sea Exhibit
- 2015 Best in Show at the Purcellville Music & Arts Festival
- 2015 Colored Pencil Magazine February Challenge Contest, Honorable Mention
- 2015 juried into the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Loudoun Artists Studio Tour
- 2015 juror, 16th Annual Youth Art Show: "Paint the Town"
- 2015 Black & White Show, Franklin Park Arts Center, Advisory Board Friends of Franklin Park Choice Award
- 2015 Step-by-Step article on portraiture in Ann Kullberg's Colored Pencil Magazine
- 2015 juried into Colored Pencil Society of America's Explore This 11 Show
- 2015 Step-by-step article on portraiture for Ann Kullberg's Colored Pencil Magazine
- 2014 71st annual Waterford Red Barn Exhibit, second place, drawing
- 2014 publication in Ann Kullberg's CP Magazine twice and in two of her books honorably mentioning work submitted to the Member show and annual theme show and an article on a new pencil sharpener
- 2014 Art@the Pink Box, Middleburg, August & October
- 2014 MAA Gallery & Kensington Labor Day Show, first place, portraiture
- 2014 March CPAL first place Bruynzeel Award, advanced category
- 2014 Cascades Library, one-person exhibit, Girl Heroes & Animal Stories
- 2014 Gallery One, Along Loudoun Waterways Exhibit
- 2014 Franklin Park Arts Center, Puzzle Pieces Show
- 2013 Franklin Park Arts Center, Secrets Show
- 2012 Finalist, Thalo Magazine Cover Art Contest
- 2012 Franklin Park Visual Arts Ctr, Secrets Show, Purcellville, VA
- 2009 Franklin Park Visual Arts Ctr, Summer Abroad Show, Purcellville, VA
- 2008-present Stifel & Capra, representing gallery, Falls Church, VA
- 2009 Bluemont Fair Annual Show & Sale, Bluemont, VA
- 2006 Loudoun Fellowship of Christian Artists, featured artist presentation at Meadow Glen Senior Home, Leesburg, VA
- 2006 Loudoun Sketch Club 60th Anniversary Show, Round Hill Arts Center, VA
- 2005 Student/Teacher Exhibit, Archangel Arts Center
- 2005 Vienna Arts Society Treasury of Art juried show, award recipient
- 2004 Christian Artists Circle, featured artist presentation, Loudoun County, VA
- 2004 Artscape, featured artist interview, Loudoun Channel 3
- 2003 Brief response Article on the Maroger Medium, Artist magazine
- 1999-2009, Glen Echo Labor Day Art Shows, Glen Echo Park, MD
- 2005 Shenandoah University, Leesburg, VA,
- 2004 Trinity Arts Academy, Baltimore, MD, one-person exhibit; chosen as first solo artist exhibit for the new Trinity Arts Academy gallery.
- 2001 Eastern Loudoun Library, one-person exhibit of new & collected works.
- 1990-92 Fifth Column, Washington DC, on-going gallery exhibit
- 1989 Perry's, Washington, DC, one-person exhibit of new works.

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### TEACHING:

- 2018–Present, Faculty at the Yellow Barn Studios in Glen Echo Park, MD
- 1995–Present, Independent classes, camps & workshops for children, teens, adults including my own course, “The Fine Art of Colored Pencils”™ at various venues including Michaels stores, home studio, home-school co-ops & other events, studios & schools. Teaching, planning, administration, advertising, web design.
- 2002–2020 HEARTS high school home-school co-op for grades 7–12, curriculum planning & teaching at all high school levels, general & advanced art course.
- 2009–2013, Art Instructor, classes & summer camps, Loudoun Co, PRCS Claude Moore Rec Ctr, Responsible for planning and teaching of Art programs
- 1999–2007, Crossroads School of the Arts, a Christian School of the Arts; co-founder, art instructor, director of summer camps. Program design, directing, school planning, administration for all teachers, coordinating performances & exhibits, registration, advertising, parent liaison and conferencing, all levels of art instruction
- 2006–07 LSAC & PRCS adult art workshop instructor, Senior Center, Leesburg, VA  
Taught Art Program for senior
- 2006–07 Program Director & Art Director, Camp Jeanne d'Arc, Merrill, NY  
Program design and daily scheduling for all campers and staff, planning of art program and training of art instructors
- 1999–2006, Metro MorningStar Church, camp co-op programs  
Designed Theme-related camp programs, taught and over saw assistants
- 2005 Shenandoah University, Continuing Education art instructor, Leesburg, VA campus  
Taught adult studio art for continuing Education program
- 1999–2004. Art teacher for the Ambleside School, a Charlotte Mason method school.  
Designing curriculum coordinating with Charlotte-Mason structured school for grades K–8<sup>th</sup>. Trained in methodology and implemented methods in teaching.

### REFERENCES:

- 1) Glen Kessler, Professional Artist; Founder & Instructor at the Compass Atelier, Rockville, MD; Juror, Lecturer, Curator. 11810 Parklawn Dr, Rockville, MD 20852; 973-634-0526; GlenKesslerArt@gmail.com
- 2) Carolyn Koslow, Professional Artist; Koslow Fine Arts, 2516 Glenlawn Pl., Herndon, VA 20171; 703-217-4808 carolyn.koslow@verizon.net
- 3) Signe Friedrichs, Council Member, Town of Herndon Government, Executive Director Council for the Arts of Herndon, 777 Lynn St., Herndon, VA 20170; 703-626-1066, signe@herndonarts.org

**MEMBERSHIPS & VOLUNTEER WORK:** Colored Pencil Society of America, signature member; CPSA Metro DC Chapter; Coloured Pencil Community of Australasia Inc., signature member; Australian Society of Coloured Pencil Artists; Montgomery Art Association; Frederick County Art Association: Webmaster for CPSA District Chapter 109 & Eastside Artists' Gallery; Yellow Barn Gallery, faculty; Waterford Fair, Chair of Fine Art Exhibit and Art Mart.

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**MEMBERSHIPS & VOLUNTEER WORK (cont):** Over the years I have been Loudoun Sketch Club, president and newsletter editor; a member of Loudoun Arts Council; the Vienna Arts Society; New Masters Gallery; Archangel Arts; Loudoun CAC, core group board member & communications director; and Cascades Library Advisory Board, chair, director of annual silent auction and secretary; Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital, troop leader; Sterling Cascades FreeCycle, owner/moderator.

### **COURSE LISTS:**

I teach my own program to adults called the Fine Art of Colored Pencils™ through workshops and a full curriculum to K-12 kids and teens. I have also taught adult classes & workshops in Portraiture, Oil Painting, Studio Art, Colored Pencil Portraits & Drawing; Children's General Fine Arts and Themed Summer Camp Programs, Children's Art from Historic Periods, Other Countries & Cultures; High School Studio AP Art, General Art, Art Appreciation, Teen Fine Arts Camps. I am working on a curriculum that I have developed for publication.