

# robin lee makowski

fine artist • illustrator • author • instructor

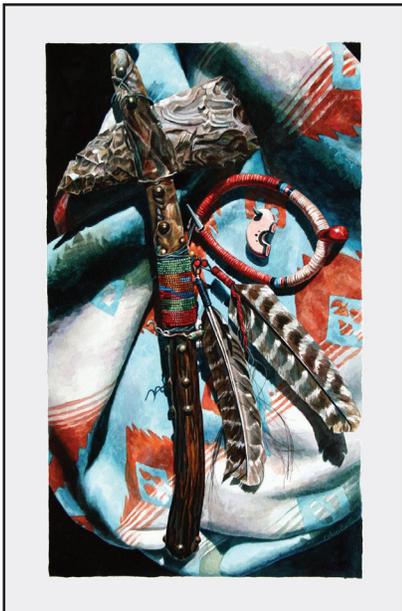
Chicago native, Robin Lee Makowski, was ten years old before she realized that not everyone saw the world the way she did. What appeared to be day-dreaming to some people was actually an intense study of line and tone, light and shadow, by a young, budding artist. She could draw well by the time she was four, but it was not until into her teens that she became passionate about the natural gifts she inherited from her father and her maternal grandfather, both artists.



Robin focuses on nature for her subjects, but is inspired by anything “with dramatic light and lots of color.” Working exclusively from her own original concepts, she captures nuance and personality in all of her work. The viewer realizes that the subject is something the artist knows well and loves, by the handling of the media, the composition, and the respect and attention paid to details; all made evident by the blend of reverence to and the play of light and color in the image. Robin’s subjects range from her first love, fauna, to the collection of native plants in her own garden, to her creative still life set-ups, to figure studies and portraiture. Her current series, *Happy Hour*, is a “spirited celebration of our cocktail culture.” ***Another Round of Primaries*** is part of this series, and is “also my current political commentary,” explains the artist, “as political as I get, anyway.” The painting was also selected from thousands of entries to be included in ***Splash 14 - The Best of Watercolor***, published by North Light Books.

Illustration and writing have been means of creative expression for this artist, as well. Not only has Robin illustrated more than thirty published children’s books, she also authored half of them. Her illustrations have appeared in publications such as *National Geographic Magazine*, The Cousteau Society’s *Dolphin Log*, *Surfer*, and *New Yorker Magazines*. She has worked as the illustrator for the Wild Dolphin Project in Jupiter, Florida, and has original artwork on permanent display in San Pedro, CA, at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium’s whale exhibit. Robin was a volunteer at the Aquarium for sixteen years before moving to Florida, working with the Whale Watch program there in conjunction with the Los Angeles School System, and even teaching the Whale Watch class at UCLA for twelve years.

Additionally, she has taught workshops on drawing, colored pencil, and her specialty: watercolor - most recently, watercolor on Aquabond. She’s lectured on artists’ issues such as marketing, framing, and Giclée printing, sharing her vast experience and knowledge with many artists. Robin had the position of artist-in-residence in the fine art department at Southeastern Printing in Stuart, FL for nine years, until she moved to New Mexico in 2008 with husband & artist, Marcos Lee. They returned to Florida in 2012 when Robin was offered the job of Art Studio Coordinator at the newly rebuilt Elliott Museum in Stuart, FL.



Robin has received many honors for her artistic merit. Her work has been featured on the annual posters for several prominent art festivals, and she has received countless awards in juried shows and art festivals. Her work is shown in Florida at the Elliott Museum, at Elite Salon & Gallery in Hobe Sound. Her work is represented at venues in NM & TX.

Contact the artist: [artcfartc5@gmail.com](mailto:artcfartc5@gmail.com).

*Frank’s Southwest Treasures*, watercolor on rag paper ©2015

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