

GAIL DESCOEURS

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My love affair with flowers, gardening and painting began as a child. I grew up watching and helping my grandmother, who lived next door, with her gardens and we lived surrounded by forests which inevitably became my playground. Every spring I would anxiously search for the first flower to blossom and still do to this day. When my eyes catch sight of the first flower of spring, it warms every part of my being. On Mother's day my loving Mother would receive, from my sisters and me, handfuls of trilliums, still wet with morning dew. Trilliums have the most perfect timing!

Flowers become our teachers, living on a different time scale that requires patience and nurturing. They teach us that we don't have to rush. They seem to constantly express the notion that we should just take our time and become aware of the simple beauty that surrounds us. Flowers help us convey our feelings and touch our hearts, in a way that words sometimes cannot express. Flowers are a celebration of beauty, joy, love and life.

I was inspired to paint "Welcome home" after walking into my own home one afternoon seeing my vase of daisies shining brightly welcoming me in. It made me smile and I thought how wonderful flowers are. Not only do they bring us joy but also peace and serenity.

Personally, I find sunflowers to be the most joyous flowers of all. Just looking at them makes me smile and I love how they follow the sun. In my painting "Glorious Sunflowers" I wanted to portray the communication and family unity, they seem to inspire. The Mother is talking, loving and teaching her little bud to turn to and follow the sun. The little bud is looking up at the Mother as if she was the sun herself. Standing behind and yet still close to the Mother there is her young teenager standing tall and proud having found the strength to fit in and the courage to stand out. When the winds and rain came she protected them but not too much, as she knew she would one day have to let go, knowing that her bud will soon enough have to stand tall, strong and on its own. The elders, the wise ones, are also there watching over all.

'Welcome Home'
24 x 36
Oil



'Glorious Sunflowers'
22 x 18
Oil

I am forever grateful to my Mother and her constant love and support. When my Father passed away my Mother discovered the healing effects of flowers and gardening. She immersed herself into her gardens. When I think of my Mother she has actually been a gardener all her life. She planted all the good things to give my life a start. I am my Mother's garden and she still turns me to the sunshine. No matter how old you get, your Mom is your Mom and I Love mine!

I feel very grateful and privileged to be an artist, painting and teaching full time. It has allowed me to pause to delight and appreciate the simple joys of everyday life, which in turn enables me to truly live. I hope the viewer can feel my paintings like they do with flowers, with their hearts and not just their eyes. I hope my paintings will touch their spirits, creating a feeling of peace and well being within.

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