

4 Nests

January 2021, almost year into the pandemic, I had finally incorporated everything from my Maryland Hall space with my existing home studio.

A few months earlier, while still organizing my studio, I was grateful for the opportunity to show small works in the December 2020 exhibit at Jo Fleming Contemporary Art. A few pieces were birds nests done quickly and expressively with paint and markers. They were well received and I enjoyed creating them. Markers and calligraphy pens are great for drawing because you can make interesting, organic lines with chiseled tips or very fine points.

I was busy non-stop between my legislative job and my art obligations. On that note: I want to thank all of you for continuing to support me, buying my art online and ordering commissions throughout the pandemic. I am forever humbled and grateful.

In January the Legislative Session began and no vaccine in sight. Working at home, painting at home, attending family birthday parties by Zoom, I was frayed around the edges, as all boundaries had dissolved. While I am an extrovert that gets her energy from the physical presence of other people, I still need a sanctuary and it had been invaded. The entire world was invited into my home without the benefit of physical contact.

Feeling too drained to paint anything on canvas other than commissions, I started doodling at my drawing table, and the doodles looked a bit like nests. The circular motion of the doodles was therapeutic and oddly energizing on a soul level. The intimacy of these little drawing/paintings became my solace, creating a new boundary between the world and me.

I ordered Posca acrylic markers and starting drawing on my favorite black fine art paper and finished stationary, and the nest series was born. I did not create these with the intention to put them out into the world, but now that we are on the other side of the worst of it, I no longer need to maintain that boundary, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share them with you.