

Cheryl Ann Boc-Chidester – Artist Statement

From an early age, I recognized myself not only as an artist but also as an explorer, continually experimenting with a variety of media. This passion has guided my creative journey, where I frequently blend techniques and materials to create compelling textures, dynamic light effects, and rich, vibrant colors. My work is deeply inspired by nature, travel, history, and personal adventures. Each piece reflects my emotions, thoughts, and the evolving dialogue between material and meaning.

My artistic process is intuitive yet intentional. The subjects I choose and the methods I employ are shaped by the stories I wish to tell and the feelings I aim to convey. Although often described as eclectic, my work is unified by recurring themes: a reverence for place, a fascination with texture, and an appreciation for quiet beauty.

As an architectural historian, I have a deep love for old buildings and often focus on capturing architectural details in my watercolors. These pieces frequently merge with street scenes that reflect cultures or places. My plein air work is also primarily watercolor, embracing spontaneity and direct observation.

In photography, I'm drawn to macro imagery, especially in nature. These close-up views reveal overlooked details and invite viewers to pause and look more closely. I also work with handmade papers, dyes, and encaustic techniques, mediums that allow me to explore cultural styles, layered narratives, and personal symbolism. My portraits are most often created in graphite or watercolor, though I approach every subject with flexibility, guided by inspiration rather than formula.

At the heart of all my work is a desire to interpret and share moments of serenity, quiet joy, and beauty, while fostering meaningful connections with others through art.

My creative journey has been enriched by diverse experiences. After earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Science from Eastern Michigan University, I have held several art-related roles: Graphic Designer, Gallery Manager, Art Instructor, Muralist, Set Designer, Architectural Historian, and Museum Director. I currently teach at the School for the Arts and operate Cheryl's Creative Custom Art & Framing.

I am an active member of several art organizations and have had the honor of exhibiting my work throughout the Midwest and occasionally beyond. I've been fortunate to receive numerous awards for my paintings and photography, including a 2021–2022 grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Participating in workshops and teaching has allowed me to continue growing as an artist while sharing my knowledge with others.

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Instagram: [@cheryl.chidester](https://www.instagram.com/cheryl.chidester)

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Website: [Cheryl-chidester-artist.com](https://cheryl-chidester-artist.com)

Artwork Archive: [Cheryl Boc-Chidester](https://www.cheryl-boc-chidester.com)

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Michigan Watercolor Society – board of directors, traveling exhibitions
Detroit Society of Women Painters & Sculptors, scholarship committee
Brighton Art Guild, Art in the Alley coordinator
Northville Art House, Instructor
Guild of Artists & Artisans
Three Cities Art Club
Crooked Tree Art Center
Detroit Institute of Arts
Artists for Community Exhibits

