

Connection, Courage: Anne Nordhaus-Bike at Woman Made Gallery

My connection with Woman Made Gallery began 25 years ago, when a life as a full-time artist was still a dream. I first crossed Woman Made's threshold in 1997, when the gallery moved to Prairie Avenue and I began covering its events for the Gazette Chicago newspaper in my fine arts column.



I joined the gallery that year and two years later showed my first piece in a Woman Made show.

Since then, I have grown significantly as an artist and a person because the gallery not

only gave me an artistic home but challenged me to create new work in different media through its varied calls for art.

Over the years, I have made paintings as well as mixed media art and shown my work at Woman Made and other galleries, but my art remained a part-time practice, and my dream of doing what I most wanted always stayed stuck in "someday."

A few years ago, my creative life began changing when I felt an inner call to return to watercolor painting, and I received practical assistance from Woman Made through conversations with the gallery director and other staff - everything from professional advice to the best tools and techniques for hanging shows. My experiences with Woman Made over these years helped me follow my artistic inspiration where it needed to go and gave me the courage to embrace my first love, watercolor, letting the paint and paper lead the way each time I enter my studio.

Finally, this year, I found my courage to say "yes" wholeheartedly to myself and my art, to make art my full-time practice and focus. Thank you, Woman Made, for a quarter century of connection and support and helping me keep my dream alive: because of you, someday is finally here.

--Anne Nordhaus-Bike, <https://artistanne.com/> 10/15/23