

Lydia and Catherine Burris at Woman Made Gallery



2007 was an exciting year for myself and my mother, Catherine Burris. I was moving into my very first apartment in Indianapolis in June 2007, and during the same month my mother was accepted into a show in Chicago called "Some Assembly Required."

In 2021, I moved to Chicago, and in 2023 Woman Made Gallery was the first gallery in the city to accept my work. I remember the complicated feelings mother had about her struggles as a fine artist. She was always made to feel that she wasn't young enough or male enough to be accepted by the art world. She turned 58 the month her work was included at Woman Made Gallery. This gallery finally made her feel seen and accepted, and its location in the big city of Chicago gave her a huge sense of pride. We traveled together to the reception, faced anxiety on the road and got lost trying to navigate the area. We both came away feeling extremely inspired, and I still remember some of the impactful artworks I saw that night.

In 2009 we started applying to art shows together as a Mother / Daughter duo. We were very close as art friends. She got ill after that and passed in 2011. When I told Beate about my mother being in a WMG group show, she took the time to find out which one it was and sent me to the webpage link. Her email connecting me back to this window in my mother's life had me bawling. I knew a sacred connection had been made. Not just between myself and my mother and the gallery, but a greater connection to the purpose driving this art space and the people it brings together. I'm proud to have become a member. –Lydia Burris
9/25/23

(Images: Catherine Burris at Woman Made Gallery | June 29, 2007)