



2009 AlaskaOne Poster Artist Madara Hill

Madara Hill's work is as eccentric as her past. Her paintings are noted for their bright colors, mixed-media layers, interwoven allusions to both the South and the Arctic, pop culture narratives, and a tendency towards humor. Although she was born in Georgia and spent most of her young adult life there, her childhood was punctuated with frequent travel and brief residencies in places like Luxembourg, Spain, France, and even Fairbanks while her father helped to build the Alaska pipeline. As an adolescent, Madara realized that she had a talent and passion for painting, a passion she inherited from a long line of creative women.

While still in high school, Madara's mother, Carla Friedrich, a Swedenborgian minister and painter, arranged a brief apprenticeship with a well known Southern portrait artist, Deanna Griffin. It was during this time that Madara began painting in earnest and only put her paintbrushes down for a few years while earning a Master's degree in English. Her Southern heritage and love of literature is easy to spot in the whimsical narratives of many of her best works. Madara occasionally teaches World Literature at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where her students are introduced to the mythologies of many cultures. These mythologies and the thread of our common heroic journeys have also found a home in her work. Her students often remark that they see elements from her lectures popping up, coupled with elements from Alaska Native aesthetics, Southern folk art, comic book conventions, and a flair for the dramatic. Collectors come to her work to find what she knows: that life is a complex journey we survive only by telling our stories, and by telling them with a sense of humor. Madara Hill works out of her studio in downtown Fairbanks.

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