

# Carolina Danu

Utterly consumed with the exploration of the nostalgia and human memory as well as our irrevocable connection to the natural world around us, my artwork creates a surrealistic, dreamlike impression of the world as I choose to see and convey it. While my body of work spans a variety of different media, my current focus is on oil painting and sculptural ceramics. Although my painting style varies by subject, I tend to be drawn towards a realistic style that draws in historical traditions of the medium. The realistic style choices in my paintings are complimented by fantastical elements that create a warped reality inspired by the surrealist movement. My sculptural work straddles the line between figurative sculpture and illustrative surface design.

My current work integrates my own personal connection to nature as well as my Eastern European roots and natural elements such as flora and landscapes that I am drawn to and build connections with. I use personal photographs that I take throughout my day-to-day life as reference points for my work. My color palettes are carefully devised under the influence of the Impressionists' manner of visually blending our world with evocations of human life and emotions through the subtleties of color; Using the nearly unparalleled vibrancy and depth of color that oil paint allows. I want my paintings to evoke emotional reactions and connections in my audience through my subjects, compositions, and use of color.

While my paintings most often interweave the connection between human and nature in a surrealist manner, my sculptural work frequently juxtaposes the contrasting ideas of manmade and the natural. Similar to my paintings, sculpturally, I focus on subjects relating to nature. This has been a thematic obsession that has followed me through life, and subsequently my work since childhood. I juxtapose manmade objects with plants, animals, and other subjects that are part of our surrounding environment to show how these elements effect one another and therefore uncover how our actions are directly affecting our world. Another facet of ceramics that reinforces this idea is that the medium itself comes from the earth, from nature, only to then be fired and permanently turned into a manmade object that will exist for a very long time. I like to explore working with brightly colored surface decoration, frequently contrasted with the raw, natural beauty of the clay itself. Even my glazing techniques reflect the contrast between manmade and nature as the shiny, glass like quality of the glaze contrasts against the natural subject as well as the raw clay itself.

Overall, I create in order to visually express my feelings and experiences in a way that I find therapeutic, frequently incorporating human form, natural and manmade elements. I create so others can connect to my visual work and ideas in their own ways and, especially through my paintings, to show a different way to see the world that warps our reality to be just a bit more dreamlike. I hope that my ceramic work as well connects with my audience by showing our natural world in a different manner. Witnessing the different reactions and connections that people make with my work is the true motivation behind my work.