

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY

Christine Claringbold

Christine Claringbold, a native Oregonian, began painting in 1994, while living in Montana and awaiting the birth of her daughter, Tangereen Velveteen. Needing a way to express her powerful emotions, she grabbed the first blank "canvas" she could find, which happened to be a vintage hardshell suitcase with the Greyhound tags still attached - it had accompanied her on many travels. The front panel of the suitcase soon became a wild exploration of color and pattern.

In the years since, Christine has continued to embrace the concept of using recycled and reclaimed materials as her canvases, including a box of old records donated by a friend of a friend. With records, Christine discovered her ability to create mandalas, and this has become the basis of her work.

Christine started painting murals in 1997, and the interior of her Portland home, adorned with psychedelic mandalas on walls and ceilings, has been featured on HGTV's "Look What I Did." She has also appeared on an episode of HGTV's "That's Clever!"

Eye Pop Art was launched in 2003, featuring mandala art and accessories made from recycled vinyl records. Christine sells her work at boutiques, art walks, craft shows, and online through Etsy.com. She also produces wholesale orders for recycled-arts galleries throughout the US and in the UK and Canada.

Christine is the Program Coordinator for Trillium Artisans, a nonprofit microenterprise support organization assisting low-income craftspeople who create with recycled and reclaimed materials. Christine is also one of Trillium's artisan members and her work can be found at their showroom in SE Portland.

Always inspired by children's art, Christine volunteered for eight years for the PTA's parent-led art program at Duniway Elementary School, including three years as program chair. She has taught art and ceramics for several SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) programs. She has led arts residencies and taught mandala workshops for Portland Parks and Recreation, Portland Public Schools, the Centennial School District, the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Tucker-Maxon Oral School, Art Adventures at Oregon College of Art and Craft, and the Henry Street School for International Studies in New York City. She currently teaches classes for the DIY Lounge and for Duniway Elementary's after school program. Plus, she is a background singer for the indie rock band Dartgun & the Vignettes.

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