

MEET CHERIE DACKO

Maitland Rotary Art Festival

Poster Artist 2021



Born in Chicago of Polish heritage (her great-grandfather was a butcher in the Chicago stockyards), Cherie Sahler Dacko was raised in Tampa, Florida. She joined an Ybor City art co-op while in college and received a B.A. in Studio Arts at the University of South Florida. The next 25 years as an award-winning photographic retoucher gained her an innate sense of human proportion and expression. When her young son started school, Dacko re-focused on commissioned portraits, volunteering and seeing the world with her family. The week after her son left for college in 2005 she rented studio space and began painting and teaching art classes full-time. Some 350 paintings and small sculptures later, her work has earned her a devoted and far-reaching fan base, ranging in age from 9 to 90. Currently she works in a private studio in downtown Sanford and lives with her husband Bill in Longwood, FL.

Artist's Statement

The human faces and figures found in my work are somewhere between representation and invention. Random objects are layered in unusual contexts to create a visual story with an open-ended narrative. The color palette, lighting, and visual drama are filtered through my own frame of reference, altered through the course of painting to reflect a personal reality.

Bent Realism

“The term “Bent Realism” began organically with a slow disengagement from the constricture of representational art and portraiture. Having surpassed the “10,000 hour rule” of pushing a brush around, the mechanics of color, composition and technique come more naturally, but are still less important to me than the subconscious metaphors that creep into my work.

Through expression and allusion, the limits of my subjects are transgressed. The viewer is invited to probe beneath the surface of the work to speculate on the inspiration behind it. It feels very satisfying to open a door, visually speaking, to a world no human has ever seen.

