



Self Portrait  
12" x 14" Oil on  
Repurposed Aluminum Sign

## Artist Statement

Unformally-taught creator of figurative, figurative abstract and intuitive artworks, Live Events Illustration and Fashion/Commercial illustration. Betty is a rebelliously-human artist expressing life & celebrating the arts using a variety of styles and mediums.

## 2024 Exhibitions & Performances

- November 2024 **Live Illustration** at Sylvester Tour with DCC Studios
- November 2024 Houston Fashion Week **Live Illustration** with DCC Studios at The Grid Show and Danny Nguyen
- September 2024 New York Fashion Week **Live Illustration** with DCC Studios at Alex Yu “Prologue”
- September 2024 London (Fall) Fashion Week SS25 **Live Illustration** with DCC Studios at British Fashion Council “Optimism”, Leblon London, and Fashions Finest
- August 2024 Retail wall at Kettle **Art Gallery** 4 pcs
- July 2024 Off the Walls Studio Gallery “Party for One” painting selected by **Disney Studios** for use on set in a pilot program
- February 2024 For the Love of Kettle “Thicc in the Streets” Kettle **Art Gallery**
- February 2024 For the Love of Artists “Hello Halo” Kettle **Art Gallery**

*(2014–2023 exhibition list available upon request.)*

## 2024 Publications

September 2024 So Edited Magazine  
[“Alina Ispas: Fashion & Beauty”](#)

July 2024 So Edited Magazine  
[“STRAIT by ARIANNA ANTONIAZZI: Fashion & Beauty”](#)

May 2024 Zoot Magazine [“Illustrating the Sculpting Data”](#)

March 2024 Zoot Magazine [“Illustrating the Silver Cord”](#)

Regular contributor to a variety of fashion and art periodicals

## Interview

[Donna Tallent](#)

## Online

[BeSoArt.com](#), [@besoart444](#)

# ARTIST STATEMENT

Betty Southerland  
BeSoArt.com



Betty Southerland is a life-long serious amateur and independent student of the arts, un-formally trained; learning mostly from observation and practice using life drawing and the costumed figure as a vehicle for self expression and cryptic storytelling.

Betty makes figurative, abstract, expressionist art using bold/experimental styles and techniques; trusting her intuition. She works with dry media, watercolor, pastels, acrylics, and oils using figures painted/drawn from live online themed life-drawing sessions featuring emerging and established performers in dance, drag, aerialist, theater, cabaret, modeling and fashion design via Drawing Cabaret Couture. She also pants/draws live at events and creates original works from life, photos, memories, concepts and feelings with both abstract and figurative elements.



Betty is interested in exploring the transformational power of art saying, “Making art feeds my soul allowing me to express, heal, connect and explore humanity; honoring the human experience and **celebrating art in all forms**”. Her paintings and drawings explore personal and universal themes through movement, form, tactile experience, and the power of color; filtered through her perspective of the moment considering her life experiences, universal themes, feelings, mood, music, movies, current events, memories, etc. The content is a spontaneous interpretation of the artmaking experience; a diary, a storytelling device, and visual evidence of art as a living, breathing, giving thing.



Abstracts like “Wolf Beach” or “The Reckoning” began in a detached meditative state and evolved subconsciously into a narrative figurative abstract painting. The stories are enhanced by changing the direction of hanging.

Betty believes we are all connected to everything. She expresses that theme through working with the figure to create “Self Portraits of Other People” with a desire to surprise, frighten, delight, challenge, and uplift you enough that you also see your own humanity in them.