



# ANITA HAGAN

LINOLEUM BLOCK PRINTMAKER & MIXED MEDIA ARTIST

[www.anitahaganartist.com](http://www.anitahaganartist.com)



443-336-3407



[anitahaganartist@gmail.com](mailto:anitahaganartist@gmail.com)



Edgewater, Maryland



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Anita Hagan lives in Beverly Beach, Maryland in a small cottage on the Chesapeake Bay. She has worked in the medium of linoleum block printing for over 25 years, and has developed the unique technique of printing black ink over acrylic paint. Inspired by the natural world, and the human figure, she continues to explore and push the boundaries of her art.

Ms. Hagan's work can be found in private collections across the United States and Europe, and was featured on the cover of the of the arts magazine "Upstart".

In 2018, Ms. Hagan was chosen by "The Big Ink" to participate in a printing demonstration of her large wood block piece "The Myth of Freedom" at The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

## Artist's Statement:

The first time I created a linoleum block piece of artwork - I knew that I had found a medium that matched the expressive, bold and powerful messages I wanted to convey. In order to create my mixed media prints, I initially draw onto a piece of linoleum block, and then carve away any areas that will not be printed. There is a physical and visceral interaction with the material as I carve deep grooves and lines, leaning into it like a sculptor. This technique allows me to employ an endless variety of patterns, crosshatching, swirls, and shadows. Next, a thick black oil-based ink is rolled across the surface, and a piece of Japanese Kozo paper is applied. After hand-rubbing the back with a wooden spoon to press the ink into the paper, the piece is pulled from the block – always a dramatic and rewarding moment. Color is painted individually by hand on each piece prior to printing and is comprised of watercolor with occasional swaths of metal leaf. As the block is printed over the painted image, it allows delightful bits of color and brushstroke to purposely slip outside the lines.

When creating my art, whether I am carving the searching gaze of a young woman's eyes, dark jagged mountains, or a thunderous cloud formation – I seek to create a connection - both with myself to the image as well as with the viewer. I believe there is an intrinsic hope and desire in all of us to find empathy, compassion, understanding, and ultimately, harmony with all living things.

