



Featured Artist Karen A.V. O'Brien

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Artist Karen A.V. O'Brien presents a delightful collection of portraits of women from around the world. Learn more by visiting her [website](#).



"Amazon" acrylic and paper on canvas, 11" x 14"

After five decades of dreaming, I finally found the time and the inspiration to create full-time.

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"North Africa" acrylic and paper on canvas, 11" x 14"

Art has been part of my life since childhood. I began drawing and painting at the age of five and fondly remember crafting clothes for my Barbie dolls from tissue paper and fabric scraps.

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"Ukraine" acrylic and paper on canvas, 11" x 14"

I earned a BFA from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and worked in commercial art for several years. Eventually, I shifted into marketing and sales roles to support myself, but the desire to create never left me.

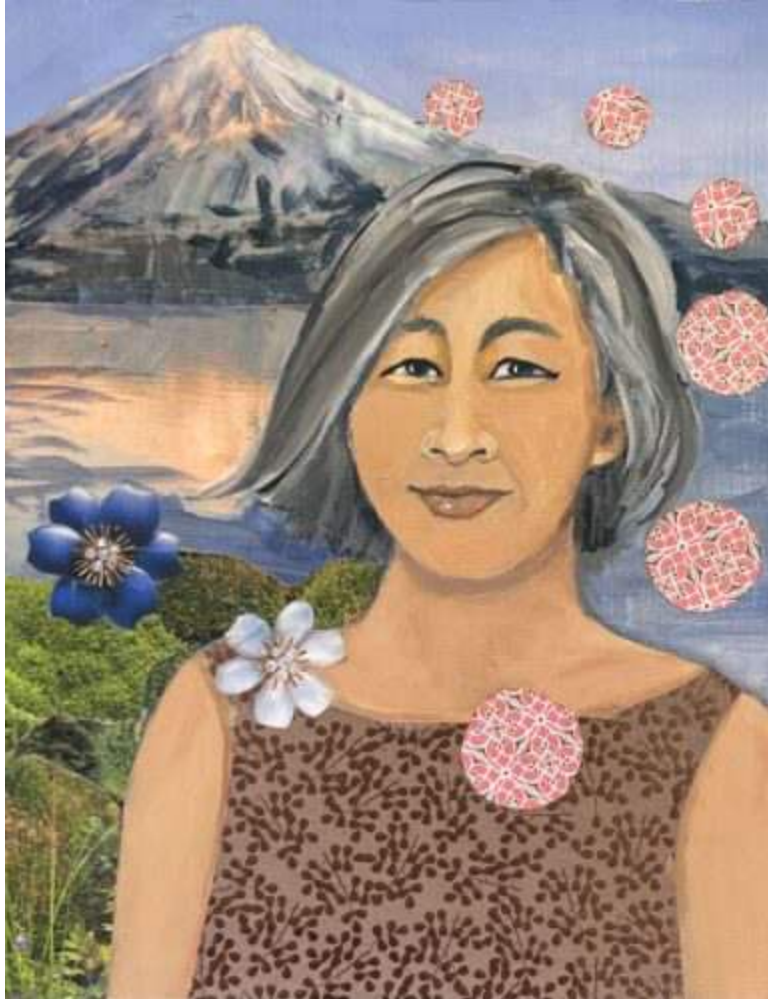
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"Inuit" acrylic and paper on canvas, 11" x 14"

Over the years, I dabbled in various forms of expression—clay sculpture, photography, and painting —always returning to art as a way to reconnect with myself. I've found that taking a weekly painting class keeps me creatively energized and focused. The structure and community keep the ideas flowing and the momentum strong.

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"Japan" acrylic and paper on canvas, 11" x 14"

Recently, inspired by a new teacher, I began incorporating collage into my paintings. This led to the birth of a new series: *Women of the World*. Using reference photos of modern women from across the globe, I began creating portraits that celebrate their diversity and shared humanity.

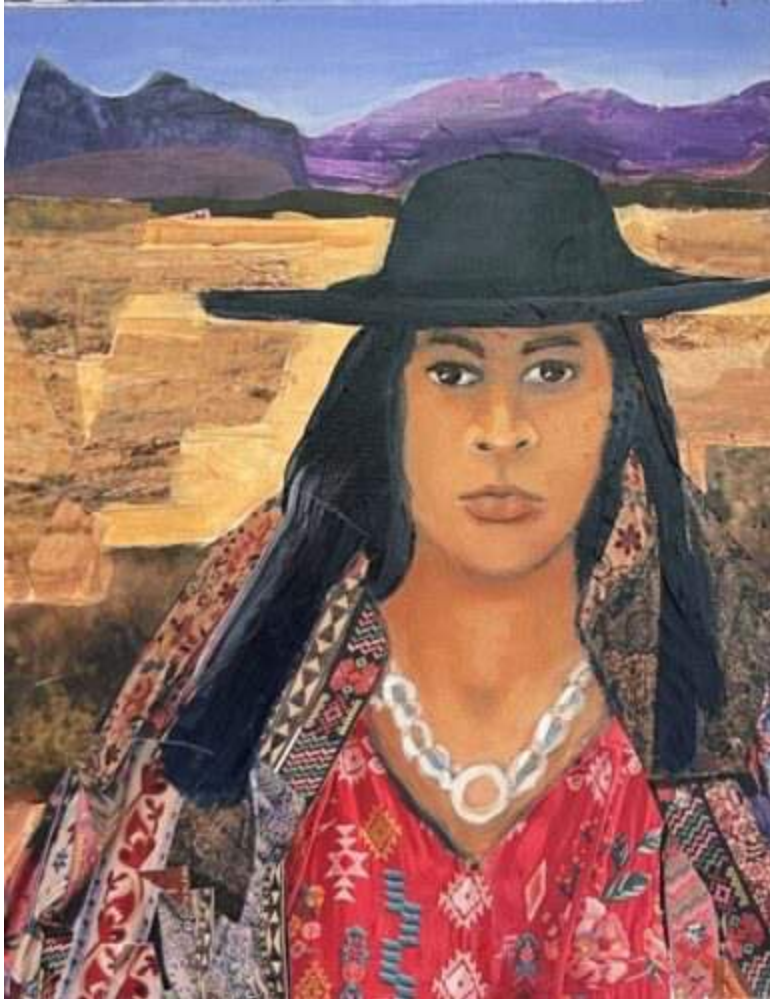
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"Ireland" acrylic and paper on canvas, 11" x 14"

Each piece sized 11" x 14", includes collage elements in the surroundings or clothing—adding texture, story, and cultural richness. In just seven months, I completed 12 portraits. The women in this series represent a wide range of backgrounds—mothers, grandmothers, professionals, and indigenous women—each one a reflection of strength, beauty, and connection.

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"Arizona" acrylic and paper on canvas, 11" x 14"

Rather than selling these original works individually, I wanted to preserve the integrity of the collection. This led me to explore print-on-demand options and, more recently, to launch an Etsy shop featuring reprints of the *Women of the World* series on everyday items like mugs, t-shirts, mousepads, and more. What began as a personal project has quickly grown into a creative venture that brings me more joy than any job I've had before.

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"Chinatown" acrylic and paper on canvas, 11" x 14"

As I expand my shop with more artwork and products, I'm excited to see where this journey leads. For the first time in a long time, I feel like I'm exactly where I'm meant to be—creating, sharing, and celebrating art every day.

Karen A.V. O'Brien invites you to visit her [Etsy shop](#).