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I was born, June Blaak, and raised in Burlington, Ontario, Canada and I'm the middle of five kids in the family... it was chaotic.  My mom was a stay at home for the most part.  She did some cleaning and babysitting jobs.  She loves to paint with watercolours.  My dad is a handy-man, carpenter and worked most of his lfe as a draughtsman.  Both my parents enjoy classical music and singing.  We all went to the Christian Reformed Church every Sunday and sang our hearts out.  As a family we would sing in old-age or retirement homes the last Sunday of the month and do an occasional Christmas concert.

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I bounced back and forth between acrylic and oil paints on the side.  We moved back to Jordan Station, Ontario, Canada, so that we could be closer to family.  My husband started his construction career at this time and was able to start his own business and I had a full-time job as an Office Manager for a small marketing company.  But the stress was too much and our son was having seizures and then required surgery.  I had a serious breakdown and hospitalized again.  More medications and unable to work, I stayed home and worked on staying healthy.  We ended up moving in with my mother-in-law (my husband is an only child) and helping her with her home maintenance.  This helped us to remain stable and take care of our son who was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome or as they now call it Autism Spectrum Disorder.

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I decided to try different apps and different techniques to see how I could express myself and the images that I had in my head. As I moved forward I realized this is a good way for me to open up. I feel that most of my designs are based on emotions or thoughts that are from my subconscious. The images are a way for me to express feelings emotions that are difficult to put into words.  At first I thought I can make colouring books and put these designs in them and people could put their own colors in. I also thought, hey I'll put some colour phrases into the book and trigger other colour ideas for people when they're colouring the images. At the time it was very popular to have colouring books; it was becoming quite the fad. I didn't want to do what everybody else was doing so they're a unique product and they haven't sold as a popular item. But it was mainly a way for me to start my expressing my feelings and to get my designs out there. At the time I just started posting them, and made it so I could do it everyday. But not feel the pressure to really do it everyday and just work through getting all these pictures in my head out. Then they developed into different designs and colors and shapes. Now when I do it I'm a lot more comfortable and confident and really push the colors on each design. When I do the design there's usually a thought that pops in my head while I'm doing the design and it's usually a phrase or word that really expresses the image design that I'm creating which I find really exciting.  It feels like the stars are aligning in my universe. I don't find that I want to use a lot of words to express it I just have a phrase or two that come up at the moment and really feel that it expresses what I'm trying to do or say.

**What excited you or gets you enthused to sit down and create. Is there any special triggers etc?**

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Occasionally an image in nature or something I see will strike me and I'll use that as inspiration.  An example is the image "Birdsong" which is inspired by the birds by our house and the song in my heart about being free and letting go.

**If you lose your muse? What helps you get it back?**

I feel I lose my muse quite regularly.   Especially when I am depressed or I'm having a difficult time. I will not want to do anything and shut down. Then I'll make myself go outside or listen to music or go into town and talk to people. It's usually helps me to get me out of my slump. Then I feel fired up and feel like opening up and creating again. I usually have to force myself to get motivated. I try to tell myself that it's not who I am oh, but it's I thought. So I'm able to move forward and see that there's more past that idea or thought.

Right now, we're living in a26ft trailer in the middle of a forest. We have no running water, we have no electricity, but we're happy and enjoying nature. We have lots of bird feeders, including ones on our windows. So we see lots of birds and squirrels, chipmunks and foxes.  Right now a lot of my inspiration comes from nature.  We plan on building a house, being off-grid with solar power (I'll be an off-grid digital artist) and staying here as long as we can in Haliburton, Ontario, Canada.

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I'm starting to paint again, using gouache paints and birch bark, that I find on our property, and doing similar abstract images as the digital art.

I'll be sending an image of Birdsong in a different email.  Thanks for your patience!

Love,

June Krisko

On Sat, May 18, 2019 at 1:20 AM Trish <[trish6150@gmail.com](mailto:trish6150@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi June,

Thanks for agreeing to the interview.

So we’d like to know a bit of your background - where your from etc.

How did you begin your artistic career?

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Anything else that you would like to say feel free. As I mentioned if you could send a few jpg images too that would be great.

Thanks.  Trish.

On Fri, 17 May 2019 at 10:58 pm, June Krisko <[junekrisko@gmail.com](mailto:junekrisko@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thanks again, looking forward to the questions!

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Kind regards

Trish Hoskin F.R.S.A.S.A.

[https://trish-hoskin.myportfolio.com](https://trish-hoskin.myportfolio.com/)

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