

Leslie Nobler

Statement

My mixed-media artwork, an ongoing series of over 25 portraits, is still evolving from many years of research into significant, resilient “creatives.” My art practice combines an intense interest in experimental printmaking and surface design on fiber, merged with social issues. Likewise, the women's images are usually combined or collaged with symbols, words, patterns and snippets of their own work and personal histories. Their work promoting improvement in their communities and beyond, accomplished amid adversity, makes them an inspiration.

These examples of resilience provide a window into the lives of individuals of distinct talent, humanity and grace. Using rich surfaces, patterns and colors, the hope is to seduce viewers into also seeing the troubling and uplifting backstories lying below the surface. In celebrating the fortitude and grit of the female spirit from the 20th to the 21st

century, I endeavor to tell their stories, critical to our lives today and tomorrow.

This biographical mixed media assemblage combines portrait imagery, fabric design, and handcrafted objects into a coordinated presentation. It depicts a radiantly smiling American woman, a child of immigrants who overcame hardships to make her way in a new country. It is as if we are viewing her through a window frame- depicted as a mosaic of gold, blues, browns and black- as she turns her head to smile at us over her left shoulder. The painstakingly printed, painted and stitched portrait of May Cohen infers her resilience, her passion for the arts (especially dance), and her inspiration to her daughter, the celebrated artist Judy Chicago. Surrounding her are patterns employing Baltic (her family's roots) motifs, irregular - yet simple geometric blue-and-white pattern resembling hand-dyed or quilt-inspired textile design, and Judaic symbols to convey her clear minded goals and the beauty of her heritage. Not only does she lift off the surface within the mysterious golden

frames, but her story of light and resilience is briefly shared in the 2-page folio. The artist invites you to write, draw or scribble your thoughts and ideas about art and resilience in the booklet you will find inside the pouch on the pedestal before you.