

COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY



IMAGES COURTESY OF CHRISTINE SAJECKI

(left) "New Mexico" 54" x 48", Encaustic and Georgia red clay on panel, (top right) "Zack" Encaustic on panel, 36" x 36"

CHRISTINE SAJECKI

BY APRIL HOUSE / BALTIMORE BUSINESS JOURNAL

When and where did your art career begin?

Full time, I'd say 2004, in a single wide trailer I was using as a studio, in the woods behind Druid Hill Park. I was working 40 hours at a frame shop in Cockeysville, and I'd get off the light rail, stop home and get my dog, and we'd literally run to the studio so I could get in a few hours painting. Eventually I became too busy painting and had to quit my job and figure out how make it work. Shortly after I moved over to a gutted deli on the corner, then a live-in studio in the Copycat Building, and then to a residency in the Creative Alliance at the Patterson. But the fulcrum, the turning point, happened while running toward the single wide trailer.

How do you define your style?

I think of my paintings as short stories, fictions, even the most atmospheric and abstract of them. My style of working is intuitive and sensual, I work from memory, photographs, and history, creating and investigating relationships between forms, spaces, colors, marks, and things that may or may not have happened. I think the work invites exploration on different sensory levels. I don't often try to define my style- both my style and process are pretty dream-like.

Where do you create your work?

My studio is my detached garage in Woodberry. We fixed it up to have more light and to not rain inside, put in a wood



Christine Sajecki
Contemporary artist working in encaustic

You can see her work online at christinesajecki.com

stove for heat. It's lovely to have it close to home but still a separate, sovereign space.

What time of day do you find is more conducive to create and why?

I've always been a night painter. I like the night because it's consistent and quiet and I'm alone, with nothing else I ought to be doing. There's poetry in having the world to yourself.

What made you gravitate to art as a profession?

It was always the thing that interested me the most, and what I had the most aptitude for growing up. I was always sort of an odd kid, so making art made for good cover. I had (and still have) amazing parents that helped cultivate

my interest by taking me to museums, signing me up for drawing classes, letting me be strange. They took my sister and me to New York City often, to see our relatives and load up on culture. Art always seemed like a reasonable direction, and nothing else ever seduced me away from it.

What keeps you creating?

It's my job and my life at this point; my world is created around it, so I don't really consider it a choice on the day to day. Thankfully, I love it; I crave getting my hands in the materials, making marks appear, working through problems, discovery. It's how I process being human. I've tried to take a break, like when my son was tiny, but compelling projects came and found me and sparked me back to the studio whenever I had a minute.

What is your most memorable piece and why?

I did a portrait of my friend Zack after he passed away when we were in our 20's. The portrait was commissioned by his mother, and the compensation was a plane ticket to France to deliver it where she lived. There was so much desire to get it right, to honor Zack for his mom and young daughter while being true to the sweet but wild young man he was. I only had a few pictures of him to work from and had to mostly do it from memory, leaning way in and pulling his features out of the paint. I feel like I got to spend some rich, deep, beautiful time

with him, as well as say to good-bye. It was the hardest painting I've ever done, and the greatest honor to be able to do.

Do you listen to anything when you create? (i.e.: music, podcasts, movies)

Right now I'm working on 2 things simultaneously and it's been interesting to notice how I crave different music. I'm working on an illustration for a poet- a cut-paper bird who is the narrator's guide through hell, just at the moment he takes flight. When I work on that piece I put on solo piano, usually Chopin. Then when I go back to the wall-sized, colorful, dense, forest-like encaustic, I tend to blast The Kinks. But yes, music, always music.

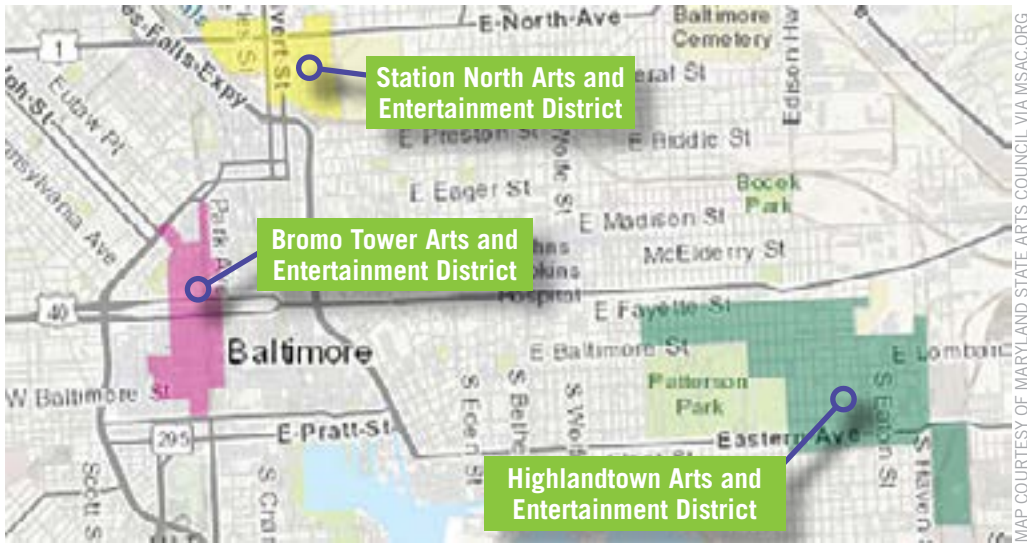
When you aren't making art, what can you be found doing?

You'll likely find me marauding with my 2 year old, August, maybe drawing spider webs with chalk on playground equipment, waving ecstatically at garbage trucks, that sort of thing. Come spring, you'll likely find us in the Rockrose community garden getting dirty.

Where can your artwork be purchased?

I have gallery representation at Haley Fine Art in Sperryville, Virginia, and at Roots Up Gallery in Savannah, Georgia. Or one can contact me through my website, christinesajecki.com.

Art scene on the map



MAP COURTESY OF MARYLAND STATE ARTS COUNCIL VIA MSAC.ORG

Get out and find your next favorite art piece by visiting one of the 3 designated Baltimore City arts & entertainment districts. (See msac.org for an arts district in your area!)

\$855.8 M

The amount contributed to the Maryland GDP by 24 Maryland A&E Districts (fiscal year 2016)

\$63.5 M

The amount of state and local tax revenue brought in by 24 Maryland A&E Districts (fiscal year 2016)

8,594

The number of arts related jobs that contributed to the Maryland GDP by 24 Maryland A&E Districts (fiscal year 2016)

\$267 M

The wages paid to arts related jobs that contributed to the Maryland GDP by 24 Maryland A&E Districts (fiscal year 2016)



Artists are at the heart of Maryland's thriving creative sector, and communities value artists for the vitality, cultural traditions and economic impact they support throughout the state.

ART, GO, DO!

Maryland State Arts Council CALENDER OF EVENTS

Celebration of the Arts - Celebrating Maryland State Arts Council 50th Birthday Friday, April 20 at the Walters Art Museum

The event will feature innovative work from artists and performers from around the state in celebration of MSAC's commitment to empowering the arts, engaging communities and creating artistic vibrancy in Maryland.

Limited registration: msac50.eventbrite.com

Individual Artist Awards

May 20, 2018, at AVAM

Each year, MSAC recognizes the outstanding artistic achievements of artists from across Maryland. Previous awardees can be seen at msac.org/grants-awarded.

Art on the Fly Visual Art Exhibit

Now - June 1, 2018

Curated by Maryland Art Place, the exhibit features 24 works by ten Individual Artist Awardees.



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