

## My Bio

As a child, I worried that I had no gifts, no purpose to carry me through life. My older sister was the writer of the family; my older brother, the computer genius.

Then there was me — the social butterfly.

I was a competent student, but didn't excel at reading, writing, or arithmetic. There was no place I stood out, no shining path to carry me to the future. I felt I had nothing to offer the world.

My outlook changed, however, when I started spending time with my mentor, who also happens to be my aunt. She is an amazing sculptor, who has managed to make a living on her art.

I watched her develop her creations, taking them from mind to clay to plaster to bronze. And she helped me transfer the pictures in my head into tangible creations. She was extremely supportive — providing encouragement and criticism to a budding artist.

By middle and high school, I no longer worried about my path. I knew I was, and would continue to be, an artist.

I lived and breathed art. Even the walls in my childhood bedroom were covered with my fanciful drawings, my door transformed into a mural of storybook characters. Did I mention I also have very tolerant and supportive parents?

In school, I learned to take and develop photos in a darkroom, entering them into competitions. I experimented with various media: from painting and sculpture to glass etching and jewelry design. I even gained some small amount of fame, getting my picture in the local paper for a mosaic table I had created.

There was no question that I would continue to pursue art as an undergraduate. To balance my creativity, I also chose to develop my practical side, through a minor in business.

And economics, quite frankly, is something I couldn't ignore, even as a college student. I'm the single mother of a lovely and talented little girl, and being a parent costs money. To support my family, I have had to work my way through school, first as a bartender at a local watering hole, and now as a supervisor at a small credit union.

Though I'm grounded in reality, I have never given up my dreams. Art is still an integral part of my life, something I hope to share with my daughter, my friends and the world.