

Clarissa Lee Artist Statement

I think of my drawings as an exploration of musical techniques on paper. Whether I'm sitting at the piano or standing before an easel, the methods for conveying emotion are the same: variety of texture and attention to line. I enjoy experimenting with mark-making in graphite. I contrast legato sections with staccato passages on the picture plane. I balance long phrases with short, choppy slurs. I am drawn to pattern and repetition which naturally occur in the world; collage is the vehicle through which I am able to mimic that pattern and repetition as two-dimensional design. Dissonance and consonance are both necessary tools in music and life, for without tension we can't fully appreciate peace. It's my hope that the viewer appreciates reading my drawings like a musical score.

Toccata in C Major is about my experience during the pandemic. Throughout quarantine, I found myself alone a lot. No family close by; friends were inaccessible due to state mandates. I received a small measure of relief in the outdoors, although nature seemed oblivious to my loneliness.

Clarissa Lee Bio

Clarissa Lee is an arts educator who has spent her life making the arts available to her community. She sent artwork to Moscow through Russia's Heart-to-Heart Airlift in 1993, and served as guest accompanist for school choirs. She earned top ratings in both the Scholastic Art Awards and state music festivals. Early in her career she worked for the nonprofit organization Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS). She has championed the arts by serving as art and music docent for schools in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and San Diego. Clarissa has performed for the community as an accompanist and solo pianist, most notably at the National Day of Prayer in Los Angeles, the Steinway Gallery in Walnut Creek, Piedmont Piano in Oakland, the Museum of Making Music in Carlsbad, and solo shows for the Los Angeles Temple. Ms. Lee holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art from the Maryland Institute College of Art, a Diploma in Piano Performance with Distinction from the Royal Schools of Music, and is a Master in Teaching (Visual Arts) candidate from University of Phoenix. She is a member of the Music Teachers Association of California and the National Arts Education Association. Ms Lee recently founded a nonprofit and serves as Executive Director of Clarissa Creative Foundation. Learn more at CreateTheJoy.org.