

## Blair Treuer Artist Statement

I am a textile artist from rural Minnesota. A storyteller who made an unusual entrance into this craft. My children's participation in a traditional Native American ceremony required me to make blankets as a part of their offering. As these blankets were made as a spiritual offering, the process was very spiritual for me. Because it was the only way I could contribute as a non-native woman, I poured everything I had into those offerings. I didn't just make patchwork quilts like everyone else. My blankets pictorially depicted the Native American names gifted to my children when they were born. After a decade of creating blankets for private spiritual ceremonies, I transitioned to creating portraits for gallery display in 2018. It's a pivotal time for fiber arts on the fine art stage in general. Gallery shows are a relatively new platform for fiber arts traditionally having been diminished as craft or women's domestic work. I see myself as an innovator reimagining what it means to work with fabric. I want to inspire a new wave of exploratory work in this field, and be one of the catalyst pushing this medium forward into gallery spaces and in arts education. Because I am self-taught, my approach to textile portraiture is unique. The images are often confused with paintings until experienced in person. My approach is captivating. People generally stand as close as possible to examine it because their familiarity with fabric has them wondering how I did that.

As the only white American in my Native American family, my work is about my reflections as an outsider and the emotional rollercoaster I often ride as I stand fixed on the outside of the cultural experiences of my husband and children, but privileged enough to look in. It's not simply about the pieces of Ojibwe culture I've been allowed to see, but instead what it's allowed me to see within myself, and even to recognize what cannot be found there. I'm not afraid to explore new approaches to fabric nor am I afraid to engage in challenging topics with my work. My portraits explore intimate parts of my life and center on the juxtaposition between my white culture and my husband's traditional indigenous culture, and have ranged in topics from drug abuse, social ostracization, body image, femininity and masculinity, sexual abuse and exploitation, aging, transitioning from childhood to manhood and womanhood, with spirituality deeply woven into their narratives. My work is vulnerable, honest and personal, but often makes universal connections. Even when my work is dark, it's filled with hope.

# Blair Treuer

1388 Farmstead lane Ne  
Bemidji, MN 56601

Cell: 218-407-1049  
Home: 218-751-2482

blairtreuer.9@gmail.com

## Profile

I am a Textile Artist, with a primary focus on textile portraits. I have been working with fabric as an artist since 2010. All of my work from 2010-2018 was created for private Ojibwe Spiritual Ceremonies, but in 2018 I began creating portraits for for public display.

## Social

[www.blairtreuer.com](http://www.blairtreuer.com)

[Instagram.com/@blair\\_treuer\\_textile\\_artist](https://www.instagram.com/blair_treuer_textile_artist)

[Facebook.com/blairtreuertextileart](https://www.facebook.com/blairtreuertextileart)

## Exhibitions

### **Solo Exhibitions:**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| July 1-July 31, 2021        | "Blair Treuer Textile Portraits" Macrostie Art Center, Grand Rapids, MN                     |
| July 1 - July 31, 2021      | "Blair Treuer 2020 Print collection" The Wild Hare, Bemidji, Minnesota                      |
| January 1- March 2, 2021    | <u>"Blair Treuer Textile Portraits"</u> Marvelous Art Gallery Invitational Istanbul, Turkey |
| Oct. 6, 2020 - January 2021 | <u>"Identity"</u> : Blair Treuer Portraits Duluth Art Institute, Duluth, Minnesota          |
| January 10-March 28 2020.   | <u>"Portraits"</u> Watermark Art Center, Bemidji, Minnesota USA                             |

### **Group Exhibitions:**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Sept. 10 - 12th, 2021  | "International Contemporary Art Fair: Art3 Paris Expo Paris, France<br>Represented by Van Gogh Art Gallery Madrid, Spain |
| May 28- July 1, 2021   | "Up Close and Personal" Juried Exhibition The Art Effect Poukeepsie,NY   |
| May 7- 28, 2021        | "May Group Exhibition": The Jones Gallery Kansas City, Missouri  |
| May 1 - June 26, 2021  | "Prelude" Invitational @ The White Gallery, St. Cloud Minnesota U.S.A  |
| April 1-May 29th, 2021 | "Fantastic Fibers" International Juried Exhibition, Yeiser Art Center,<br>Paducah Kentucky                               |

March 8 - April 30, 2021	<u>"My American Experience"</u> O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, C.A
February 28th -May 30, 2021	<u>"Faces and Figures"</u> National Juried Exhibition, Flagler County Art League, Florida
February 6th -April 3, 2021	<u>"Figure it Out"</u> National Juried Exhibition, TAG120Art, Taylor, Texas
January 28, - March 5, 2021	<u>"Staying Connected"</u> National Juried Exhibition, Art Center Sarasota, Florida
January 22- May 5, 2021	" <u>Kromatic@Art International Exhibition</u> " Invitational M.A.D.S Milano Milan, Italy
Jan. 9- February 13, 2021	<u>" 26th Annual Arts North</u> International Juried Exhibition, Hopkins Center for the Arts, MN
Oct. 10th - Nov. 24, 2020	" <u>Who are you</u> " National Juried Exhibition, Sebastopol Center for the Arts. Sebastopol, California, U.S.A
July 2, 2020 - Aug. 31, 2020	<u>"Xposed" Naked and Not Afraid</u> Knox Contemporary Gallery of Art Calgary, AB, CANADA
July 23 - August 21, 2020	<u>"Borders 2020"</u> International, Venice International Art Fair Venice, Italy
May 28 - October 4, 2020	<u>"Women's Work"</u> North by Northwest International Juried Exhibition, Yellowstone Museum of Art, Billings, Montana U.S.A
May 22 - August 11, 2020	<u>"Beyond, Behind, Beneath...The Self-Portraiture"</u> National Juried Exhibition, South Haven Center For the Arts, South Haven, Michigan

### **Online Only Exhibitions**

June 19 – August 1, 2021	"That Which Surrounds You" Arts Benicia, Benicia, CA
March 16 -May 1, 2021	<u>"She/Her They/Them"</u> International Exhibition, <a href="http://IncuArts.com">IncuArts.com</a> <a href="http://www.Incuarts.com">www.Incuarts.com</a>
July 3 -Aug 31, 2020	"A light in the Darkness" Las Laguna Gallery, <a href="http://laslaguna.com">laslaguna.com</a>
April 2020	<u>"10th Annual Figurative"</u> International Juried Exhibition , Light Space Time Online Gallery <a href="http://www.lightspacetime.art">www.lightspacetime.art</a>

April 2020	<a href="http://www.colorsofhumanityartgallery.com">"Human Nature" International Juried Exhibition Colors of Humanity Gallery www.colorsofhumanityartgallery.com</a>
April 2020	<a href="http://www.artisttableonline.com">"Free Choice" International Juried Exhibition, ArtisTTable www.artisttableonline.com</a>
March 2020	<a href="http://www.fusionartps.com">"Colors" International Juried Exhibition, Fusion Art www.fusionartps.com</a>
February -March 2020	<a href="http://www.artroomgalleryonline.com">"Seasons" International Juried Exhibition, Art Room Gallery Online www.artroomgalleryonline.com</a>
February 26-March 24, 2020	<a href="http://www.contemporaryartgalleryonline.com">"All Women" International Juried Exhibition, Contemporary Art Gallery Online www.contemporaryartgalleryonline.com</a>
February 5- March 4, 2020	<a href="http://www.fusionartps.com">"5th Annual Artist's Choice" International Juried Exhibition, Fusion Art www.fusionartps.com</a>
January - February 2020	<a href="http://www.artroomgalleryonline.com">"Open" International Juried Exhibition, Art Room Gallery Online www.artroomgalleryonline.com</a>
January 2020	<a href="http://www.lightspacetime.art">"All Women's Exhibition" International Juried Exhibition, Light Space Time Online Gallery www.lightspacetime.art</a>

## Awards and Recognition

January 9th, 2021	<a href="#">1st place overall @ the 26th Annual Arts North International Juried Exhibition</a> Awarded January 9th, 2021 for the portrait titled "Prayer for Jordan"
January 9th, 2021	<a href="#">4th place in Fiber Arts @ the 26th annual Arts North International Juried Exhibition</a> Awarded January 9, 2021 for my portrait titled "Mia"
Awarded April 2020	<a href="#">ArtisTTable "Free Choice" Exhibition ArtisTTable Studio Award</a> Awarded April 2020
March 2020	<a href="#">Fusion Art International "Colors" Exhibition Finalist</a> Awarded March 2020 for the portrait titled "Luella"
March 2020	<a href="#">Art Room Gallery International "Seasons" Exhibition Finalist</a> Awarded March 2020 for the portrait titled "Maddy"

February 2020 Fusion Art 5th Annual Artist's Choice International Exhibition Finalist  
Awarded February 2020 for the portrait titled "Evan"

February 2020 Art Room Gallery Online "Open" Exhibition finalist  
Awarded for My portrait titled "Luella"

January 2020 Light Space Time "All Woman 2020" Special Recognition  
Awarded January 2020 for the portrait titled "Maddy"

December. 2019 Art Olympia 2019 Semi Honorable Mention  
Awarded Dec. 2019 for the portrait titled "Self Portrait"

March 25, 2019 Region 2 Arts Council Individual Artist Grant 2019  
I received \$1,738 to purchase a new sewing machine

Education Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN - History B.A., philosophy minor, 2003

Skills I am a self taught artist and sewer. I consider myself a storyteller who paints with fabric and draws with thread. I still feel like I am very new to this art form and because of that I feel like I am fairly experimental and that I've got a lot of room to grow and develop my skills within this discipline. I am being referred to as an innovator in my field. I truly feel unfettered and I'm very excited to see what I can do as I explore this craft and as this journey unfolds for me.

Publications Marvelous Art Magazine: January 2021

The Raw Art Review: A Journal of Storm and Urge: Winter 2020

Beyond Words International Literary Magazine: April edition 2020

Sonder Midwest: Issue #5 April 2020

Press

<https://www.duluthnewtribune.com/entertainment/art/6776971-Minnesota-artist-tells-spiritual-familial-stories-through-fabric>

<https://theslice.tv/video/building-family-blankets-slice>

<https://www.perfectduluthday.com/2020/11/09/building-family-blankets-with-blair-treuer/>

<https://www.kaxe.org/post/area-voices-blair-treuer-textile-artist>

<https://lptv.org/in-focus-blair-treuers-portraits-looks-in-on-ojibwe-culture/>

<https://nativenewsonline.net/entertainment/minnesota-art-exhibit-depicts-reflections-as-an-outsider-in-native-family/>

<https://www.nativeknot.com/news/Native-American-News/Minnesota-Art-Exhibit-Depicts-Reflections-as-an-Outsider-in-Nati.html>

<https://onenesstalkradio.com/shows/light-laughter-and-lattes/>

Virtual Artist Talks

[Blair Treuer Artist Talk with the Duluth Art Institute](#)