

ARTIST STATEMENT – JOY JURIED EXHIBITION MISAKO OBA (NY/JAPAN)

For many, to feel joy may be a journey. Sometimes, circumstances make the journey hard or seemingly futile. Joy is often supplanted by emotional drainage, or emotional baggage. Joy may seem like a distant and unattainable goal.

However, my life experiences have empowered me with the following philosophy: No matter the circumstances, joy can be attained. It may require prayers, experimentation, exploration, surrendering, acceptance, and making decisions. We are all human, after all. You may not be able to achieve joy on your own. Acknowledging our Creator may be a key. This day is a gift. Every day is a gift.

My artistic creations start with a bottom layer emanating from negative emotions – a “dirty” layer. The bottom is where it belongs. I then cover it with “layers of joy” – using encaustic. Trials in life shape us to be a deeper human. It is what we must acknowledge and embrace.

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Joy is Coming