

# MEKIA MACHINE

## Elegy In Floral: Stitched In Time

2023

### Series Statement:

In February 2023, I embarked on a creative odyssey without a clear destination, armed only with a palette of pale pinks and blues reminiscent of the Jamaican homes that lingered in my memories. As I painted, my mind wandered back to Jamaica, to my grandmother, and to her enchanting garden, where the scent of giant roses beckoned even before one stepped through the gates.

In 2010, my grandmother passed away, leaving behind a legacy of love and a trove of memories. I remembered the sheets from her bed, where I lay trying to memorize the names of the flowers that adorned them. Those early attempts at sketching those blossoms still influence my doodles today. The act of sewing, guided by her skilled hands, was my gateway into her world, as I created miniature garments for my dolls during our precious moments together.

My grandmother was a formidable presence, strict but with a heart brimming with love. As time passed, her body began to change, to crumble under the weight of illness. Diabetes claimed a toe, then her left foot, and she withered before my eyes. It was a poignant reminder of the fragility of life, the inevitable decay of the physical form.

But in contemplating what happens to the body in death, I found solace in a profound and beautiful truth. The body, returned to the earth, becomes the nourishment for nature's rebirth. From that metamorphosis, flowers emerge, vibrant and resilient, echoing the cycle of life itself. In a sense, I too am the flowers, born from the body that once nurtured me.

'Elegy in Florals: Stitched in Time' is a visual journey through these intertwined memories, a testament to the enduring power of love, the fragility of life, and the eternal renewal of nature. It is my humble attempt to capture the essence of a beloved grandmother, her garden, and the profound connection between memory, sewing, and the ever-renewing cycle of life.



**Wild Geranium And Poppy**

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe, pen  
on canvas, collage fabric, plastic,  
threads,  
27 X 33 inches  
2023



**Lady Slipper And Buttercup**

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe,  
pen, collage fabric, plastic, threads,  
on canvas

27 X 33 inches

2023



**Rose Gentian Beneath The Sun**

Acrylic, acrylic gouache, Flashe, pen,  
collage fabric, linen, plastic, threads, on  
canvas  
48 X 48 inches  
2023



*Left to right:*

**'Hiding Poppy Seeking Lilly'**

Acrylic on 300 g/m2 paper  
10 X 8 inches  
2023

**'Aster's Sunlit Cornflower Dreams'**

Acrylic on 300 g/m2 paper  
10 X 8 inches  
2023

**'Mariposa Lilies in a Pale Teal Sky'**

Acrylic on 300 g/m2 paper  
8 X 10 inches  
2023



*Left to right:*

**'Rosebuds Among Tulips'**

Acrylic on 300 g/m2 paper  
6 X 8 inches  
2023

**'Roses, Gentian, Hibiscus, and Violet'**

Acrylic on 300 g/m2 paper  
6 X 8 inches  
2023

**'Lilies on the Green'**

Acrylic on 300 g/m2 paper  
6 X 8 inches  
2023

**'Moses in the Cradle'**

Acrylic on 300 g/m2 paper  
6 X 8 inches  
2023



**'It's Springtime Somewhere'**  
Acrylic on 300 g/m2 paper  
10 X 14 inches  
2023



