

Wish You Were Here: *Heather Burton*

When did you live in the Bay Area, and what brought you here?

I moved to the Bay Area in 2006 to work on my masters degree from the Academy of Art University.

What prompted you to leave?

In August 2010, after graduation, I left to have uninterrupted time to paint and to travel with my son.

Where did you end up?

After the Bay Area, I moved back to New York for 8 months and then traveled throughout the US for 5 months painting with my 9 year old (at the time) son. After our trip, we moved to Maui, Hawaii where I was a middle school art teacher at a private school and painting full time. We were there for 3 years before I met my husband, a Colorado artist who had come to Maui for the Maui Plein Air event. In 2015 we moved to Northern Colorado (Fort Collins area) to be with him, I love it here.

Has your artwork changed or evolved since you left the Bay Area?

I feel like in the 10 years that I've been gone my work has evolved but my drive to paint has remained close to the same subjects. I like to paint allegorical work, something with a story. My primary focus has been equine art and now focusing a lot on western themes, but I feel that I still paint very diverse subjects.

What are you up to now?

I'm a full-time painter and teach workshops occasionally. I've been focusing a lot on museum shows including Cowgirl Up, in Wickenburg, Arizona, Western Spirit in Cheyenne, Wyoming, the Brinton Museums Artist in Residence show and Brinton 101 in Sheridan, Wyoming as well as the American Quarter Horse museums America's Horse in Art show. I now have a 4-year-old daughter (Callie) in addition to my son who is a high school senior so a lot of my time is spent with them. My husband is also a full-time artist, we spend a lot of time traveling to shows and working together in our studio, we feel so grateful for our busy lives doing what we love.