



Karen Michel
Written by Christina Romeo

Nestled in a cozy space with color splashed with funky but serene patterns and textures marks Karen Michel's numerous designs. Each piece has an earthy and grounded feel which makes her space not only inviting but incredibly relaxing. Whether it was the dream catchers, the handmade notebooks, or the tastefully made bowls the space wove together effortlessly. Like every artist, there was a story waiting to come out behind her work.

Karen has been creating for as long as she can remember. When she graduated from high school, she ventured off to the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan and then to an art school in New Mexico. With both of these experiences under her belt, she feels as though her art combines the "New York and New Mexico influence."



Her favorite pieces to make are the dreamcatchers. She started making the dreamcatchers because she was inspired by "...the notion of Talisman and ceremony, especially because it isn't modern anymore, no one really pays attention to them." With these pieces, she is re-envisioning these "...ceremonial objects for the modern times." She works with dream-catchers, mandala which are "...archetypal symbols that have been amongst us," and she works towards "...giving them a modern voice that can relate to us and today's world."

She loves "...working with the different fibers." Traditionally, she is a trained painter and when she is working with the tying of the tassels she feels like "...it is almost like painting, but with fibers." She considers herself having a "creative OCD," where she will jump from one project to the next. She enjoys the process of the book making alongside the dreamcatchers. However, collage making and painting are also part of who she is, so it is hard to pinpoint one favorite piece at times. She states, "It's just the whole process of creating something from nothing."



From traditionally being trained as a painter, her work has sincerely evolved over time. She has "...crossed over to several different mediums, while also trying to bring all those mediums together." She motioned over to her tapestry pieces as an example, she states "...it's a combination of a painting, a kind-of dream catcher element with prayer beads that I made." Overtime all of her different interests have "...melded together into this new form."

Besides being an artist, Karen is also a mom and has two boys who are "very active." Their collective passion is being out in nature as much as possible. She always finds herself working, but what is nice about her work is she can easily pack it up in a bag and bring it to the beach with the boys. She also loves music.

If interested in any of her work, you can visit her website at www.karenmichel.com or email her at hello@karenmichel.com.