

Artist Statement

Surelle Schewe

Since I was a little girl, I have loved Fairy tales. Storybooks went hand-in-hand with beautiful illustrations and imaginary worlds where anything is possible. Often, beautiful gowns and poised princesses are the face of our modern fairy tales, causing us to forget that underneath all of the "pink fluff" are deep and meaningful stories, often with dark twists, slightly uncomfortable innuendoes, non-negotiable morals, and do-or-die advice. As I have grown up, I've found ways that the fantasy in books, is connected to real life, through things like folklore, history and cultural traditions. I enjoy making similar connections with my work.

My paintings depict women who are in the midst of navigating their stories, or re-writing them entirely. They are re-imagined as more than incapable children, or damsels in distress. The world they are in may be modern, historical, or pure fantasy. Symbolic plants, animals, and needlework are small details I enjoy weaving into my stories and images. My work is modern day storytelling, with female characters who are deep, complex. They are not to be overlooked in order to favor the prince or the plot.