



Sharon D. Kirk

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Artist Statement - Blue Kids Collection

With each of the portraits in the collection, I've aimed to capture the tremendous joy or intensity, and complete abandon expressed by the children. I'm drawn to images of children at the stage in their lives before they are concerned about how things are "supposed to" turn out in a given moment or with a given activity...while they still simply *act*.

I work in very bright colors, colors I've come to term - in the vernacular of music - the "major" colors. I rarely complete portraits in flesh tones because I do not want to focus on the likeness of the individual, but rather the experience of their moment. I want the artwork to present a particular personality, *and* transcend it at the same time. The colors I choose are very happy colors to me. As a child in the late 1960's, I lived in Sweden when bold, energetic colors and Scandinavian design furnishings were coming into the fore. My time in Sweden has influenced my color choices ever since. My "major colors" remind me of my childhood and the simple pleasures of a simpler life...like a new pair of bright red clogs, the striking orange-red Volkswagen bug my father traveled to Germany to buy, and eating pickled herring out of the jar. (The herring I've since lost my taste for.)

Children in joy are like sunrises to me. No two are ever alike, and no matter how many I've seen I'm always fascinated by "just one more".