

AN ARTFUL

Spring

by Melody M. Nuñez

Nature is endlessly fascinating to me, which is very evident in my artwork. Peruse the slides and photos I've taken and you'll see many a closeup of flowers, the detailed texture of tree bark, and drops of dew glistening on sunlit blades of grass. I'm fascinated by the intricate details of plant life and marvel at the complexity and beauty that surrounds us. If you come across a woman smiling at the sight of a flock of birds in flight, giggling over a chipmunk on the side of the road, or smelling an aromatic rose—that's me. The simple pleasures are what feed my soul, and nature and creating art are at the top of my list.

From photography to mixed media and collage, themes of nature in my artwork are like daffodils in the spring, popping up all over! I recently purchased a lovely stamp featuring Japanese Blossoms (the

equivalent of cherry blossoms), and was transported. Transported to spring, to new beginnings, and back to the old days—all with one image.

When I was attending grade school, I'd walk the fairly short distance to school and passed several trees that produced cherry blossoms in the spring. Looking back, I realize that my fascination with nature and my artful eye were developing even then. When the trees were studded with these delicate pink blossoms I'd drink in the sight, enthralled from the time I'd see the first brave buds in vigil on the otherwise bare branches, through the days when the trees were simply covered in pale pink, and finally to the end of their flowering cycle, when the dropping and drifting petals were scattered upon the ground like confetti and the green leaves had taken hold.

Naturally spring speaks of many things, not just floral beauty. The earth seems to come alive and the insects begin working busily, ensuring the natural cycle continues. I have a particular fondness for bees, and love to see bees and hummingbirds traveling from flower to flower. These things can make me stop on a dime, amazed at the way the earth and its creatures are interconnected.

As an artist, I experience spring and its wonders often – and not just during the early part of the year. The idea of new beginnings, budding, and growing happen for me every time I create a new collage, take a picture, write a new story, or try a new technique. Learning a new skill or a new way to use a familiar product stirs something inside of me, a genuine thrill, an awakening of sorts.

In spring, as in art, I can hardly wait to see what will take flight next! ☘

Melody M. Nuñez is a mixed media artist, photographer, and writer residing in Orange, California. Visit www.melodynunez.com to see more of Melody's artwork.

