

The Story of Tilly

"Well-behaved women rarely make history."

The series of paintings of my fictional character "Tilly" began by accident. I had been using a Krylon spray paint product called "Webbing," to make some tissue paper more interesting for collages. "Webbing" makes squiggly black lines that look like Silly Strings. I got the brilliant idea to spray the product on watercolor paper and paint landscapes over it. I enjoyed doing that, but I kept seeing a woman's face in the tangled black strings, and she asked me to release her! It was about this time that my two-year old granddaughter, Madi, was crazy about wearing her tutu everyday, and my friend made a tutu for me to wear at an outdoor art show. Of course, I had to put Tilly in a tutu. She's just the type of woman who'd wear a tutu. After the first painting of Tilly, she grew in my imagination and on my paper, and I couldn't stop painting her in her tutus with her flaming red hair and her saucy red mouth. Tilly is a middle-aged, educated, savvy woman with a bit of feminism in her soul and big bit of play in her spirit. She's not a raging feminist, but she's a creature of the 60s and 70s with a certain boldness and bravery that strong women possess. She loves her friends, her family, and her life. This love shows in my portraits of her enjoying her daily activities and travels. I hope you enjoy Tilly. She is usually painted in watercolor although a few are painted in acrylic on board. You may own an original Tilly or a print. I even offer for sale a set of Tilly cards. Live like Tilly!