

ELSA BEKKALA

PAINTINGS ON COPPER

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PARK AVENUE SELF PORTRAIT 8X7 IN.



CROSSING OVER 14X18 IN.



SMOKE AND PINE 24X36 IN.



SEED POT 18X20 IN.



BLACK AND WHITE STICKS 9x10.5 IN.



SACRED LANDS 9x10.5 IN.



"MATKALLA KIRKKOON", THE LONGBOAT AND THE WOODS 24x36 IN.



SEVEN DEADLY SINS: ANGER 6X8.5 IN.



SEVEN DEADLY SINS: ENVY 6X8.5 IN.



SEVEN DEADLY SINS: GLUTTONY 6x8.5 IN.



SEVEN DEADLY SINS: GREED 6x8.5 IN.



SEVEN DEADLY SINS: LUST 6X8.5 IN



SEVEN DEADLY SINS: PRIDE 6X8.5 IN.



SEVEN DEADLY SINS: SLOTH 6X8.5 IN.



FREAKS 12X10 IN.



WOMEN BLASTED, LONG ISLAND RAILROAD 23X24 IN.



JASPER MONUMENT TO THE HOMELESS 32X36 IN.



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BEKKALA IS OF SAMI-FINNISH DESCENT AND WAS BORN ON A FARM IN KEWEENAW BAY MICHIGAN. IN A CLOSELY-KNIT FINNISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, WITH FINNISH AS HER FIRST LANGUAGE, SHE OBSERVED NATURE AS IT UNFOLDS. AFTER GENERATIONS OF FARMING, THE FAMILY MOVED TO DETROIT WHERE SHE IMMERSED HERSELF IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

BEKKALA HOLDS AN MFA FROM THE RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN AND A DOCTORAL DEGREE FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN STUDIO/ART EDUCATION. WHEREAS HER EARLIER PAINTINGS EMPHASIZED DETAIL AND CAREFUL PROPORTIONS OF THE FIGURE AND LANDSCAPE, HER CURRENT WORKS ON COPPER HAVE THE QUALITY OF ICONS AND ARE NOT THE ONE-LINER STATEMENTS ABUNDANT IN POST-MODERNISM. HER ICONOGRAPHY IS OBLIQUE AND MYSTERIOUS. THE COPPER SUPPORTS ARE PAINTED WITH TRANSPARENT OILS, AND THE GLOW OF THE COPPER BENEATH THE IMAGERY LENDS A LUMINESCENT QUALITY TO THE WORK.

BEKKALA HAS WORKED IN: THE WEST INDIES, UPSTATE NEW YORK, GUADALUPE SPAIN, THE GREAT BASIN DESERT IN NEVADA, PROVIDENCE RHODE ISLAND AND MOST RECENTLY IN NEW YORK CITY WHERE SHE HAS RESIDED FOR THE PAST TWENTY YEARS.

HER WORK HAS BEEN SHOWN IN EUROPE AND THROUGHOUT THE USA. SHE HAS HAD ONE-PERSON EXHIBITIONS AT GALLERY 696 (ROCHESTER, NEW YORK), KIRKHOF ART GALLERY (ALLENDALE, MICHIGAN), MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN), UNIVERSITY CENTER GALLERY (ADELPHI UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK) AND SUOMI INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN (HANCOCK, MICHIGAN). HER WORK HAS ALSO BEEN SHOWN AT THE JANUS AVIVSON GALLERY (LONDON ENGLAND), WETHERHOLT GALLERIES (WASHINGTON, D.C.) AND FACULTY EXHIBITIONS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND ADELPHI UNIVERSITY.

