



Connecting People with Nature  
through Science and the Arts

## An Enchanted World -Just Add Watercolor: Cocoa, Coffee, Sunflowers and Butterflies by Dina Fachin

Opening: April 12, 2016 5:00-7:00pm  
Closing: May 20, 2016



This series of watercolors investigates some of the comforts and pleasures of our daily lives: chocolate, coffee, the “warmth” of sunflowers, and the fleeting beauty of butterflies. In the case of chocolate and coffee, I sought to remember and represent the actual source of these delights, and thus hopefully reconnect our daily joys with the nourishing power of mother nature. Likewise, the cultural histories that surround the domestication, cultivation (and representation) of cocoa trees, coffee trees and sunflowers can make us appreciate the contribution of indigenous traditions to our networked world, a truly global village. In between these spaces of growing plants we find the fluttering, fleeting beauty of butterflies: while their upward, circular, and diagonal movements in the sky move us about the space from one painting to the other, they also remind us of the constant change and transformation of the natural world. Far from being still backgrounds of nature, these trees and flowers are also constantly “moving” and growing. I chose to work in watercolor and ink for these subjects, since they are very versatile and delicate media. By painting directly on wet paper I let these plants and butterflies take their own shapes almost at will, like they do in the natural world. As a way to conclude this process, my final touches with brushstrokes and black ink drawings help supply context for the entire scene, as well as give the works a sense of balance. By mixing basic techniques and media, I endeavor to recreate a sense of reality and order that, to the eyes of the viewer is vibrant, colorful, enticing, if not magical.

### Meet the Artist—Dina Fachin

Originally from Italy, I now live in St. Louis, MO with my husband and our two children. I have a Masters in English and Spanish Literatures and a PhD in Native American Studies with an emphasis on Mexico and Latin America. I am a self-taught artist, and painting and drawing have been my passion since I was a child. My work is strongly influenced by my Mediterranean origins, my love for literature, and by my academic work in ethnic, cultural and indigenous studies.

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