

Sherri Madison Artist Statement

Growing up in the Army, my family moved often. There were always moving boxes laying around. My brother and I would make everything from them, from forts to toys to furniture to games. I got quite good at manipulating recycled cardboard. I also continued to study traditional art throughout my childhood, always with a deep passion for nature and worldly issues. Military children tend to see the world on very global scale, from an incredibly young age.

Later, as an adult and full-time artist, it occurred to me that packaging was quickly becoming a global recycling issue. Once the 2020 pandemic hit, the overabundance of boxes arriving at everyone's doorsteps was a visual queue of my childhood passion, and I quickly pivoted from more traditional oil painting to working with cardboard. The best way I could think to bring awareness to reducing and reusing during this time, was through my art. I began creating fine art from recycled boxes as well as some more simple projects I could teach people to make themselves at home. It has become extremely fulfilling showing the world what amazing things can be done with cardboard and that it does not need to go in the trash!

My goal is to encourage people to recycle, by visually showing them the beauty of overlooked objects such as cardboard. Some of my pieces, such as these from my Diamond Series, portraying the world's most famous diamonds juxtaposed on recycled cardboard, further highlight the issue of waste and consumption. The truth is, both diamonds and cardboard are from the earth, and both are recycled. My work continues to evolve, but all with the aim of bringing attention to reusing, reducing, and recycling.