



PRECIOUS BURGER

Artist

ARTIST STATEMENT

What if wonder isn't something we outgrow, but something we learn to silence?

For more than 30 years, I watched children enter the art room and create with an instinctive freedom. They experimented. They followed curiosity. They made strange marks simply because they wanted to know what would happen next. They rarely needed to know where something was going before they began. Somewhere along the path to adulthood, many of us learn to silence that instinct. We become more concerned with getting things right, being productive, controlling outcomes, and avoiding mistakes. We trade curiosity for certainty and play for perfection.

My work explores what might happen if we allow ourselves to reclaim that sense of wonder—not by becoming children again, but by recognizing that curiosity, play, and possibility still belong to us.

My own understanding of this changed profoundly when a health crisis disrupted the life I thought I knew. Uncertainty forced me to reconsider what mattered and how I wanted to move through the world. I began to understand joy not as something frivolous or reserved for easy seasons, but as something essential. Wonder became a way of remaining open when certainty wasn't available. Making art became less about controlling an outcome and more about paying attention.



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That philosophy is embedded in how I paint. I begin intuitively, often without knowing what the finished work will become. I build surfaces through movement, color, collage, expressive marks, texture, and layers that accumulate, disappear, and reveal themselves again. I respond to what is happening rather than forcing the painting toward a predetermined conclusion. Earlier marks are often allowed to remain visible beneath later ones, creating a history within the surface. The process asks me to tolerate uncertainty, notice what is emerging, and trust what I cannot yet fully see.

In a culture that increasingly rewards speed, productivity, certainty, and constant attention, I am interested in creating the opposite: a reason to stop. My paintings do not offer answers. They offer space—to look longer, become curious, discover something unexpected, and perhaps notice what is happening within ourselves.

I want my work to contribute to a larger conversation about what we risk losing when wonder is treated as something we are supposed to outgrow. Joy, curiosity, play, and connection are not childish things. They are profoundly human ones.

Ultimately, I think of each painting as an invitation: to pause, to reconnect with ourselves and one another, to remain open to possibility, and to remember that wonder is still available to us.

We simply have to make room for it.