

# Mary Becker

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## *Travel Bags*

From birth to death we move through life carrying luggage. Diaper bags, backpacks, purses, evening bags, travel bags, and trunks accompany us on the path. That path is laid with the warp and woof of time and events crossing one another to create a fabric. And it's those intersections that I'm addressing—deeply felt moments remembered forever.

For some time I've been working on a series of Travel Bags which honor the memorable intersections of life, big and small, serious and lighthearted. The deepest explorations are in the Travel Bags created for those who have passed.

I have been influenced by Victorian memento mori art and customs, medieval reliquaries, and Day of the Dead imagery.

Travel Bags are intended to be used, enjoyed and filled with memories.



improviZations<sup>3</sup>

# Mary Becker

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**M**ary Becker began her artistic career as a fiber and textile artist. Her work includes embroidery, life-sized soft sculpture, off loom weaving, jewelry and clothing. She has taught these techniques in both southern California and Alaska.

**M**ary's multi-media fiber art has been sold in galleries and gift shops, and her embroidery designs have been licensed by the Paragon and Bucilla brands. She has designed robes, stoles, chasubles and paraments for churches and ministers seeking one-of-a-kind vestments. While working in the toy industry, Mary created, prototyped and brought to market talking toys, plush, children's books & audio materials and products for properties such as Teddy Ruxpin, Mickey Mouse and Mother Goose.

**N**ow, experimenting with collage and assemblage, Mary is exploring new techniques and materials in a series of Travel Bags which celebrate the small moments and important occasions that mark our passage through life.



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