

# Ulrica Bell

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I seek to incorporate many layers of cultures, experiences and ideas in my work; combining diverse media and techniques allows me to do this. I create art because life is so fleeting.

As an artist, I've been greatly influenced and inspired by my father, Ashcan School painter Ulric Bell of New York City, as well as the work of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Alice Neal, Romare Beardon, Matisse, Tamayo, Kahlo, and the German Expressionists. I've also been shaped through my participation in classes and workshops at UC Davis, San Francisco Art Institute, California College of Arts and Crafts, and elsewhere, including those with Maxine Masterfield, Arturo Secunda, Glenn Villppu, Barbara McIntyre, William Wiley, and Roy de Forest.



Starting with drawing and painting, I felt I had found my medium when I studied collage with my friend, Gladys Russo. She and I and some others began California Collagists, which eventually became Collage Artists of America, an organization that has been a huge source of inspiration for me. In the past few years, influenced by my participation with LA Experimental Artists, I've branched out from collage into assemblage, altered books, shrines, and objects incorporating collage techniques.



I would describe my style as experimental, expressionistic and bold; I am interested in stimulating thought and surprise in the viewer and myself. What I hope to achieve through my art is creative and spiritual growth and a body of work that reflects my ironic and passionate view of the world, and inspires the viewer to activism, peacefulness, hope and joy.



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**A**s the daughter of New York artist, Ulric Bell, Ulrica was encouraged to become an artist from an early age. She grew up in the museums of New York City, sketching in the parks and circuses with her father, who gave her art supplies and taught her to see, draw, and paint.

Ulrica minored in art history at Bryn Mawr College; then went to Kenya with the Peace Corps after earning a Harvard MAT. Her Peace Corps experience and a third year of travel in Asia increased her desire to become a trained artist. While teaching in the inner city, she got the opportunity to study at the San Francisco Art Institute, the College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, and at UC Davis, where she earned a doctorate in Theatre and Dramatic History while studying with artists William Wiley and Roy de Forest.

Teaching community college in many contexts and adopting three troubled siblings made her quest for a way to express her view of the world more personal. She began to take many workshops in collage and experimental art, studying with Maxine Masterfield, Arturo Secunda, and many other artists.

Ulrica began to exhibit her work at the Lancaster Museum and the Cedar Street Gallery in Lancaster, California and then at shows at other museums, galleries, and in national competitions. She won a number of awards and has been represented by the Four Seasons Gallery in Wrightwood, California, Art from the Heart in Green Valley, California, and The Pavo Real Gallery — now the Lakes and Valleys Art Gallery — in Lake Hughes, California, and at other sites. She was juried into Women Painters West with a series of collages and has had four one-woman shows, several two-artist shows, and participated in many group shows including “El Dia de Los Muertes” at the Lancaster Museum in 2008. She is a member of Collage Artists of America, Allied Artists of the Antelope Valley, Lakes and Valleys Artists, and LA Experimental Artists.



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