



Bio

Margaret (Meg) Bussey was born and grew up in Warrenton, Virginia with three younger brothers. Her parents enjoyed the woods so much that they built a house outside of town on a wooded lot and moved the whole family there. Her high school art teacher was a model for the practice of painting on-site, and through the school she had opportunities to do commercial and volunteer projects in posters, theatre sets, costumes, and also her first teaching job: watercolor.

She graduated from the College of William and Mary with a studio arts major and a dance minor, adding choreography and printmaking to her experience and interests. Marriage to a Minnesotan resulted in a move to Minnesota where she visited the Boundary Waters for the first time, and experienced Midwestern winter. She completed a second bachelor's degree in art education at the University of Minnesota. After another round of life back in Virginia while her husband attended graduate school, Meg was accepted into the MFA program at the University of Minnesota and managed to graduate in 1987 with both a major in Printmaking and a still-living four-year-old child. (He has survived to become a teacher himself.)

Since earning her degree she has taught classes and workshops in studio art, including drawing, painting, watercolor, life drawing, printmaking and papermaking to both adults and children, at the University of Minnesota, College of Visual Art and Anoka Ramsey Community College. She has been active as a coop member of Highpoint Center for Printmaking and has maintained a studio space with a lithography press in the Northrup King Building in NE Minneapolis for many years.

She received a Minnesota State Arts board grant in 2005, which she used towards printmaking projects at Highpoint. She has been employed as an illustrator, most recently in a three-year cycle of illustrations for an online and print liturgical resource published by Augsburg Fortress Press. Large curatorial projects have been a more recent interest, including the show of contemporary regional watercolor artists

Waterborne in 2008 and the contemporary printmaking show *THENOW* in 2010, both at the Katherine Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota and both including a selection of work from the Weisman Collection.

For more, go to www.megbussey.com

Artist Statement

About the making of "Let Justice Roll Down".

Ever since my childhood I have been fascinated by the movement of water over rock, in the same way that human beings like to stare into a fire and watch the flow of flames. On the North Shore of Lake Superior in Minnesota there are rivers which have cut down through old volcanic deposits to produce wonderful sculptural forms on their way to the lake. I visit them whenever I can, although they are several hundred miles from where I live in Minneapolis. This image is based on one of many photos I took there of waterfalls this summer.

Since I practice drawing on, and printing from stone, with the critical help of water, (that is, the printmaking form called lithography), I am endlessly pleased by the conceptual rhyme between the elements used in making the print (water, and earth or rock) and the subject of the print. I began this image with watercolor-like washes of ink in order to authentically get the sense of watery movement. Then I added drawn marks and scraped back into them with sharp tools to express some of the rich variety of texture of the dry and wet stone.

Another layer of this print for me is the power of water, which seems so yielding, to shape the seemingly immovable rock. The character of the rock in turn affects the ways the water can create shape in it. I reflected on all the ways I might be able to shape what seems immovable in my life if I were to be more attentive to the flow of the elements in it, family, friends, and community. I also saw that attending to the character or quality of what seems immovable could help me as well.

Lastly, the 50th anniversary this summer of Dr. Martin Luther King's speech during the march on Washington for civil rights in 1953, recalled for me the phrase he used in that speech, quoted from Amos 5:24, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Even though the field of civil rights remains open, progress has been made in fifty years.