

## **Juanita Klassen | Artist Statement | Cygnus Loop**

What would it be like to fly through the Milky Way and find this blue vista unfolding before you? This is one of the marvels that Hubble has found and it is called the Cygnus Loop, the remains of an ancient supernova.

Choosing the usual wood panel (12x12 inches) I painted a few flat layers of deep blue and some black for the background, subtle lines following the wood grain, and applied at least 5 layers of white built up under each tendril unevenly, to give it movement and then a layer of the lighter blue on top, thin enough so the white glows underneath. The pouring medium helps move these filaments around, too, and the shiny dots give the background additional depth and an indication of patterns and particles throughout space. And, they make it tempting to touch; I always had a fascination for sparkly things that moved.

Note: You'll find me in here somewhere. When my particles loosen up and start floating away from the mother ship, this is where I'm headed.

I had a major life transformation at 40 and decided to quit my job and start my life over, trying as many creative outlets as possible, like teaching myself how to spin and sculpt wool, learning printing techniques at MB Printmakers, and taking drawing and graphic design at Red River College (RRC).

After RRC, I found my way to Creative Manitoba and The Art of Managing Your Career (AMYC), an artists' business course taught by Heather Bishop and she taught me that I really was an artist and I needed to make art for the rest of my life, and I learned how to run an artistic business, down to the last detail. The only thing is, I didn't know how to be an artist every day i.e what do I make and how do I sell my work once I've made it and how do I make a schedule and live day to day as an artist? This is where Jordan Miller came in; taking workshops with her has given me so many practical tools and her gallery, the cre8ery, has been a haven for my work and a connection point with other artists, like those who created the Girls!Girls!Girls! Annual Gala Fundraiser (now the Sisters4Sisters Annual Gala Fundraiser) for the Gas Station Arts Centre here in Winnipeg and have invited me to participate. I look forward to doing so much more work here in Winnipeg and becoming even more connected with our arts community in this new reality.