Hello, My Name Is

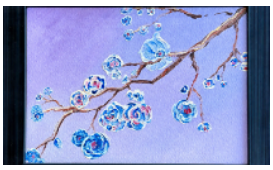
A LETTER FROM MAHALIA



BEYOND THE STUDIO
NEW ORLEANS



ON MY EASEL
SUBHEADING



AT HOME WITH ART
SUBHEADING

MINKBERRY

STUDIO & PUBLISHING



Mahalia Crotz-Kerbs Image enhanced by AI

A PERSONAL WELCOME

A Letter From Mahalia

Dear Collectors and Art Lovers,

Welcome to my first newsletter. I'm Mahalia Crotz-Kerbs, the artist and author behind MinkBerry Studio & Publishing. Whether you've recently discovered my work or have followed my creative life for some time, I'm glad

I create dream like places where your imagination can wonder, find something familiar, and perhaps feel a little more home.

to have this opportunity to introduce myself and share a little of my world with you.

I'm South African born, and Southern California raised in sunny San Diego, I now happily call the colorful desert of Las Vegas home. My work moves between painting, drawing, and illustrated books, with a love of color, softness, and whimsy running through it all. I'm drawn to creating places that feel a little dreamlike—somewhere your imagination can wander and perhaps find something familiar.

As I begin sharing my work more widely again, this letter offers a way for us to get acquainted. Each month, I'll bring you into the studio, take you along on travels that influence my art, and share ideas for living with original work. You'll also find available pieces and opportunities to make one your own.

Currently on my easel is *Sky and Flowers*, a developing series inspired by the skies I encounter and the thoughts they stir about life's choices and possibilities. I'm also celebrating the completion of *Sugarplum Adventures: A Cozy Holiday Coloring Book*—a fitting welcome to the holiday season from the more playful corners of my imagination.

Thank you for joining me at this beginning. I look forward to sharing what takes shape.

With warmth,
Mahalia



NOLA French Quarter, Bourbon St Image by Mahalia Crotz-Kerbs 2026

Today's News in Images



French Quarter New Orleans





Local emerging artists featured at Le Jardin, 612 Royal Street NOLA

Wherever I travel, I make room to seek out and experience local art. Exploring the creativity of other cities and countries awakens my own, sending me home with fresh perspectives and little sparks of inspiration for whatever finds its way onto my easel.

Beyond the Studio

NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans was such a mixture of new and old, clean and dirty. I remarked to Kevin, my husband, that it was "the cleanest dirty place I've ever seen." One moment, the air smelled fresh and floral; the next, you were hit with sewer stench and sour milk. At least, that's what I hoped it was.

But above all, the city vibrated—with life, history, music, and color.

That energy found its way into the art I encountered on the streets and in the galleries. I practically lived on Royal Street during our five days there, wandering, looking, and letting my curiosity decide where to stop next. There was so much to take in, and I wanted to linger.

Overhead, the skies were so clear it seemed the city's vibrancy had chased the clouds away. I kept looking up as much as I looked around, gathering impressions I'm still carrying back into the studio.

From sunup to sundown, New Orleans hummed. Even the moon lingered late into the morning, as though battling the sun to keep the party going—and working hours at bay. Perhaps that's why the veil felt so thin there, between past and present, dreaming and waking.

On My Easel

A Different Sky A different Possibility



Sky and Flowers Work in Progress Mahalia Crotz-Kerbs 2026

Have you ever looked beyond the horizon, trying to see past the clouds—to glimpse another world, another choice, a life different from the one you're living now?

I don't know whether it's another life or another world that calls to me when I look up, but the sky has always beckoned.

Never did I imagine I would make my home in Las Vegas. I was born by the ocean in Cape Town, South Africa. I grew up beside it in San Diego, California, and was busy raising my own children there. Las Vegas, Nevada, was the last place I thought I would end up.

But then I looked up at the sky. I looked beyond the horizon, and I found my home.

Sky and Flowers, the series currently taking shape on my easel, grows from that feeling: the pull of possibility, the wonder of where our choices lead, and the skies we find ourselves beneath.

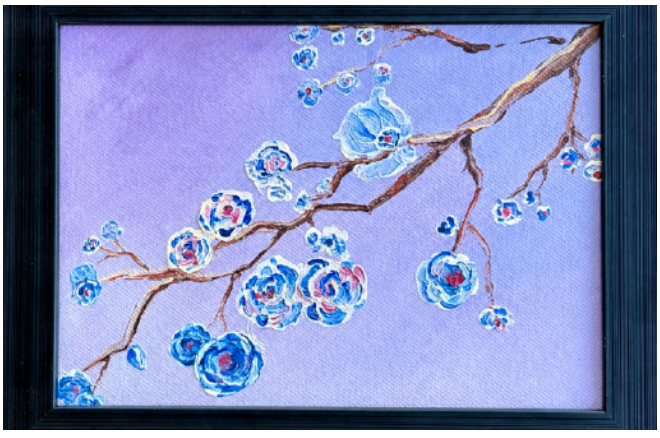
This series has been living in my head for 31 years. Looking back, it was always there, just beneath the surface—in the choices I made and the paths I followed, looking up and looking inward. The skies in my work bring together my past, my present, and the futures I've imagined.

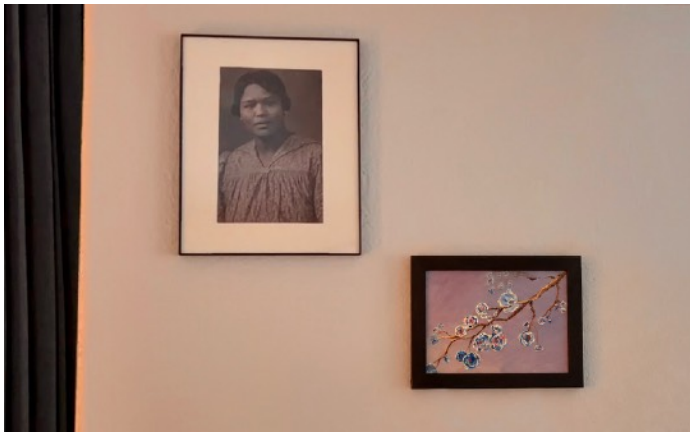
As these painted skies take shape in this series, I wonder whether you'll find something of your own life beneath them—a memory, a possibility, or a sense of home.

At Home with Art

An original painting doesn't need an entire wall to become part of your daily life. Some are quiet pieces that slip into your everyday life, finding a home beside your favorite books, on a console, or among photographs you treasure.

These blossoms bring a little lavender quiet to a familiar corner, their outstretched branches offering year-round bloom in your favorite room. Sometimes, the pieces we notice most are the ones we keep close.









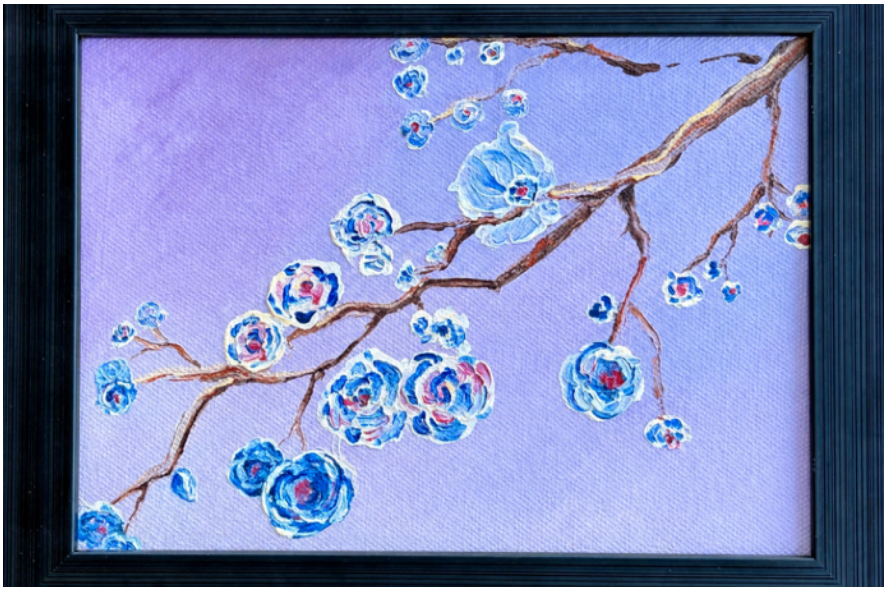
Make It Yours

BLUE BLOSSOMS

Blue-and-cream blossoms stretch across a lavender ground, their raised petals inviting a closer look. This small original brings color and texture to a favorite corner, whether displayed on a tabletop or tucked into a collection on the wall.

Untitled (Blue Blossoms)
Mahalia Crotz-Kerbs, 2017
Acrylic on canvas · 5 × 7 inches
$125 · Frame included
Shipping additional.

To make this piece yours, email sale@minkberrystudio.com.



CLOSING THOUGHT

Thank you for spending time in my world and making me part of your day. Until next month, may you find a little wonder wherever you look. And don't forget to look up once in a while.

With warmth,
Mahalia