

Interview with bone artist

# Morbid Maria



Location **Ohio, USA**

Instagram: [Magickally morbid777](https://www.instagram.com/Magickally_morbid777)

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## Ingredients

- Painter
- Resin

## Preparation

### 1. Artistic Weapon of Choice:

Acrylic paint, animal bones, canvas, and epoxy resin.

### 2. If you don't mind telling us about how you approach your work, for example do you create sketches or Photoshop references first, do you go right to attacking the media, etc

Ironically, I never sketch beforehand on canvas. I just go right into it. I usually have some sort of preconceived idea, and then it always morphs into something else even better than what I could have imagined. Making a mistake is the best part because then it becomes part of the painting and I use it to my advantage.

When I work with animal bones, it's a very sacred process for me. Everything is ethically sourced. Everything is found in the woods. I find that the animals can teach you so much more than people can if you really listen. Whenever I find a bone, I think about how that bone works within the animal, where it is located, and to what chakra it would apply. Then I think about all of the animal's characteristics. I research the animal and find the commonalities between my own situations and my own life where I might need guidance. There is always a quiet

message to be learned. Usually I will paint in the language of flowers all over the bone. In Victorian times, they had this way of speaking with flowers that was sort of a code. I like to paint flowers that work well with the animal's message. Then I glue geode pieces and moss everywhere, and cover the bones in epoxy resin to protect them. It's fun to make kinetic sculptures with the bones that function as windchimes, although I make all sorts of other bone home decor as well.

When a dead animal has been found, most of the time people wrap it in a grocery bag and throw it in a dumpster. I feel that this is so disrespectful. If I do find a carcass and not just the bones, I find a way to use it sustainably and respectfully. I bring it home and bury it in my compost pile, laying it to rest, while I sing to it. Then when all of it has been cleaned and eaten some weeks later, I go back and gather the bones and say thank you for its message.

When a tree is struck by lightning and it falls, is it really dead? A blanket of moss covers it and a whole new ecosystem forms where there are new creatures and critters that now have a home. Death is not something to fear.

**3. Once you were out of school, how did your artistic studies and career begin?**

I acquired my cosmetology license from Polaris Career Center in 2014. I worked in several different salons for many years, realizing that working for someone else wasn't for me. I had been diagnosed with lupus some years prior and during this time I had been leaving a very violent

abusive relationship that left me with complex PTSD. I took a break from work and started doing more art as a way to work through my state of mind and illness. This took over and my life became full-time art in a way that really helped me work through my challenges. I am so grateful for every experience that got me here.



I did a few pop-up shows and had my paintings in some of the local coffee shops. I am very grateful to have met [Gadi Zamir](#), who gave me an opportunity to be a resident artist at [Negative Space Gallery](#).

Some of my work is at [Oktober's Occult Shop](#) in Lakewood and I do flea markets and shows as often as I can.

**4. Do you experiment with other art forms and media?**

Yes, I experiment quite frequently! I really love steel! I've been learning how to weld and am really enjoying sculpting in this way. There is so much gratitude to learn from Jerry Schmidt in that area.

I love clay as well.



**5. Who/what are your influences? (This does not need to be limited to other artists)**

Frida Kahlo is a huge influence of mine in that way that she expressed and transmuted her pain with paint. I find inspiration and influence everywhere and in everything. The situations I encounter in everyday life are the most influential.

**6. Do you have a day job or are you able to live off your work?**

I am fortunate enough to live off my art. I still do hair occasionally but I work for myself.

**7. If you weren't an artist, what is another career path you may have taken?**

I've always been interested in forensic psychology.

**8. Do you have a favorite piece of your own art? Why is it your favorite?**

My favorite piece of art is this piece I did recently about the state of our world and

our relationship to consumption and waste. I think it's my favorite because it's one of the things I'm most passionate about.

**9. Do you have a studio space?**

My studio space is pretty much anywhere in my house! I work a lot on my porch when the weather permits.

**10. Do you work to a strict schedule each day or week? Or is it more of a fluid process?**

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Currently, I am working on these large saloon doors I found and reclaimed. I'm painting a forest and wildlife. There will be bones added as well.



**Upcoming Shows:**

**\*The Art and Artisans Festival on September 10 and 11 at Bedford Commons**



\* [The Westside Flea](#) on September 17

\* [The Strange and Unusual Halloween](#)

[Show](#) on October 9 in North Olmsted

## Chef-d'œuvre

