

## Bio

Paulina Swietliczko is a painter interested in capturing human figure in everyday life settings. Her acrylic and oil paintings depict people from her life. She chooses her family members and friends for her models. Paulina's artwork can be described as contemporary realism, though it has elements of abstraction. Among her favorite painters are those who paint abstract and realism. For Paulina, painting is about expression, color and composition. She finds the same qualities in different styles and believes that an artist does not have to be assigned to one style or subject matter. Among Paulina's favorite painters are artists like Gerhard Richter or Pablo Picasso, who prove that an artist can be successful and fulfilled while trying, and exploring different styles.

As a little girl, Paulina enjoyed drawing, sewing, building and curving wood sculptures using her pocket knife and being outdoors. She grew up in a small town near Warsaw, called Milanowek, known from historic houses and old oak trees. For ten years she took a train from her hometown commuting to the art schools in Warsaw.

Paulina graduated with the Magister Sztuki Degree in 2003 from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, in the Painting Department. While being an art student, she met her husband, on her vacations in Los Angeles. In 2005, she got married and moved to California.

In 2006, Paulina won an art competition and was awarded artist in residence at the Fresno Art Museum. Shortly after, Paulina started teaching drawing and painting at a community college. To be a part of an art community, she joined local co-op Fig Tree Gallery, where she met many talented artists from the San Joaquin Valley.

In 2012, with her family, Paulina moved to Roanoke, Virginia, where her husband got a job at the Virginia Tech Research Institute. The move was not easy for Paulina. Heaving two little children and starting over in a new town, she could not find another college teaching position. Paulina decided to focus on her painting, working in her tiny apartment kitchen while her children were in a day-care or napping.

In 2015, Paulina joined local artists at the Studio 9B1, where she was part of the Open Studios. Recently she has had her first East Coast gallery show at the Alexander/Heath Contemporary where her work is currently being displayed. She continues to paint and finding her voice as an artist.