

Tina Sommer Paaske

The story behind my chair series

My latest series which is a total of 11 pieces, two is a bench, all representing family members some long gone and others still with us. My plan was to do something very different, when I began working on this series, I had made all the backdrop fabrics and I had the thought "What if?" And 11 pieces later I thought "how did that happen?"

"A place in the sun" was the very first one, it's for my maternal grandmother, she died at age 25 because of a fatal decision, an illegal abortion (in 1946 abortion was illegal in DK), leaving three little girls behind. From the day she passed and until 1980 her name was never spoken, I didn't know about her existence till 1980, my great grandmother took the role as grandmother. I chose a very simple chair for her, mended the cracks with gold to honor her memory.

My great grandfather died in 1953, he was run over by a van on Christmas morning, coming home from his nightshift at work. Therefore "With love to my great grandmother and great grandfather".

Three sisters turned teenagers, they'd been separated since their mother's death, shifted to family members far apart and with very different terms in their upbringing, they did not have a lot of fun in their teenage years.

In the 70's the time when I was a teenager just about every household had the same chair (FDB chair) as did we. By this time I didn't know anything about the tragedy's that had occurred in my family, but as a child I picked up the bad vibrations but not knowing what it's all about, it left me with a lot of ambivalent feelings towards my environment.

My mum dies at the age of 65 and the memory of her always having fresh tulips in a vase is very strong with me, so I've given her a tulip chair I know she would have loved it.

When I was very young my parents got divorced, my father moved on in a new marriage and had another little girl, my (half) little sister, only a few years ago we found each other and decided to become sisters, hence two sprouts from the family tree.

Working through this series I got to connect and reconnect with a lot of emotions and memories, being grown up now and having a very different perspective on things I entertained the thought, of having my great grandmother, grandmother and mother to descent from above and sit side by side on this bench I had made, in between heaven and earth to have a little chat.

My paternal grandfather and grandmother got divorced before I was old enough to be able to remember them being together, but they were very stylish people, very modern. They just didn't get along, both had very big ego's and that made them not very good parents to their children sadly.

When your son finds the one and only in his life, you have a new queen in the family and that needs to be recognized. So I made a chair for my future daughter in law to be, in the way I saw would be fitting of her.

I have a saying I often use "It's great to be queen" with that I mean that every woman should feel like a queen in her own life.

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The last piece in this series I've dedicated to my life partner and myself, we moved to a new house in 2022 with lots of room for our hobbies, our senior paradise. The house came with some old rust metal chairs that I just fell in love with and I created our bench in that same style with the thought, that we will sit here and enjoy the view when we grow old.