



"Without Restraint" 24x19"

A STORY OF TIME

by Nicole Goldman

Just as the mechanics of my collection of watches failed, so did my body.

I took a standardized test once as a young child. I was instructed to create drawings from a series of blank circles. The results indicated I wasn't creative enough to be in an accelerated educational program. Thankfully, I decided not to be limited by my "lack of creativity," and now I draw gears instead of just plain circles.

It took me some time to get from circles to gears. Thirty-one years ago, I was a shy, quiet child in a large family. Drawing was my outlet, a way to explore my emotions and my observations.

I continued to explore my connection to art throughout adolescence and into my college career. At the University of Georgia, I concentrated on figurative work and fell in love with oils.

After graduating with my BFA in 2008, I continued working in oils until my energy and focus began to wane and I fell ill. At the time, I didn't realize that ulcerative colitis, an autoimmune disease, was slowly taking over my mind and body. Creating art seemed daunting, especially large scale oil paintings. So I returned to the basics - pencil and paper.

It wasn't until 2016 that I discovered the beauty of colored pencil. I originally drew gears with graphite, but I found a yellow gold pocket watch with stunning blue gems that I had to draw it in color. So I turned to colored pencil. I had dabbled with colored pencil as a kid, but I hadn't realized what I could create with it. I fell in love all over again, this time with a new medium.





"Been Thinking Too Much" 19x24"

In 2012, I was introduced to steampunk, a genre of science fiction which often includes the use of gears. The subject matter came into my life at exactly the right moment.

Everything else fades away as I draw gears. To draw such minute details my mind must focus only on controlling each line, each curve, and each angle. I was subconsciously grappling for a sense of control by studying watch mechanics.

At the peak of my disease, art vanished. I struggled just to make it through each day, and drawing was impossible. Slowly, with the aid of many life changing medications, I began improving. It was not until I started drawing again, however, that I truly began to heal, both mentally and emotionally. It may sound cliché, but art truly saved me.

Through studying watch mechanics, I have realized that I cannot control my life or health, just as I cannot control time. But I can find beauty in all things, even the broken.





"Solstice" 14x17"



"Spring Forward" 19x24"

On one level, timepieces are somewhat of a practical matter for people to keep track of time with, and certainly they were more common for men than women in the past. But, for me, these drawings are less about the practicalities of time keeping and more about the inability to control it.

I am fascinated by what brings people together and what pushes people apart. Much of the world's future success relies on interdependence, and time seems like the one element that we all connect to. We rely on time to move us through our lives.

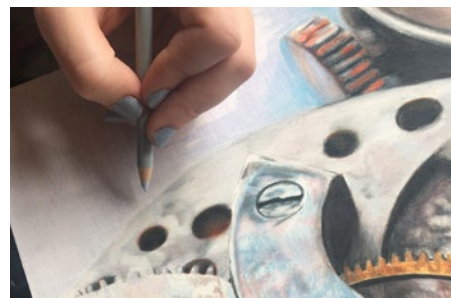
To recognize that we are all interdependent can help us see the whole human condition more clearly. If we can view feelings and decisions through interdependence, our world will be more closely aligned to compassion, understanding, love, and happiness. At a deep level we all must understand that we're the same and share the same universe. Time rules us all.

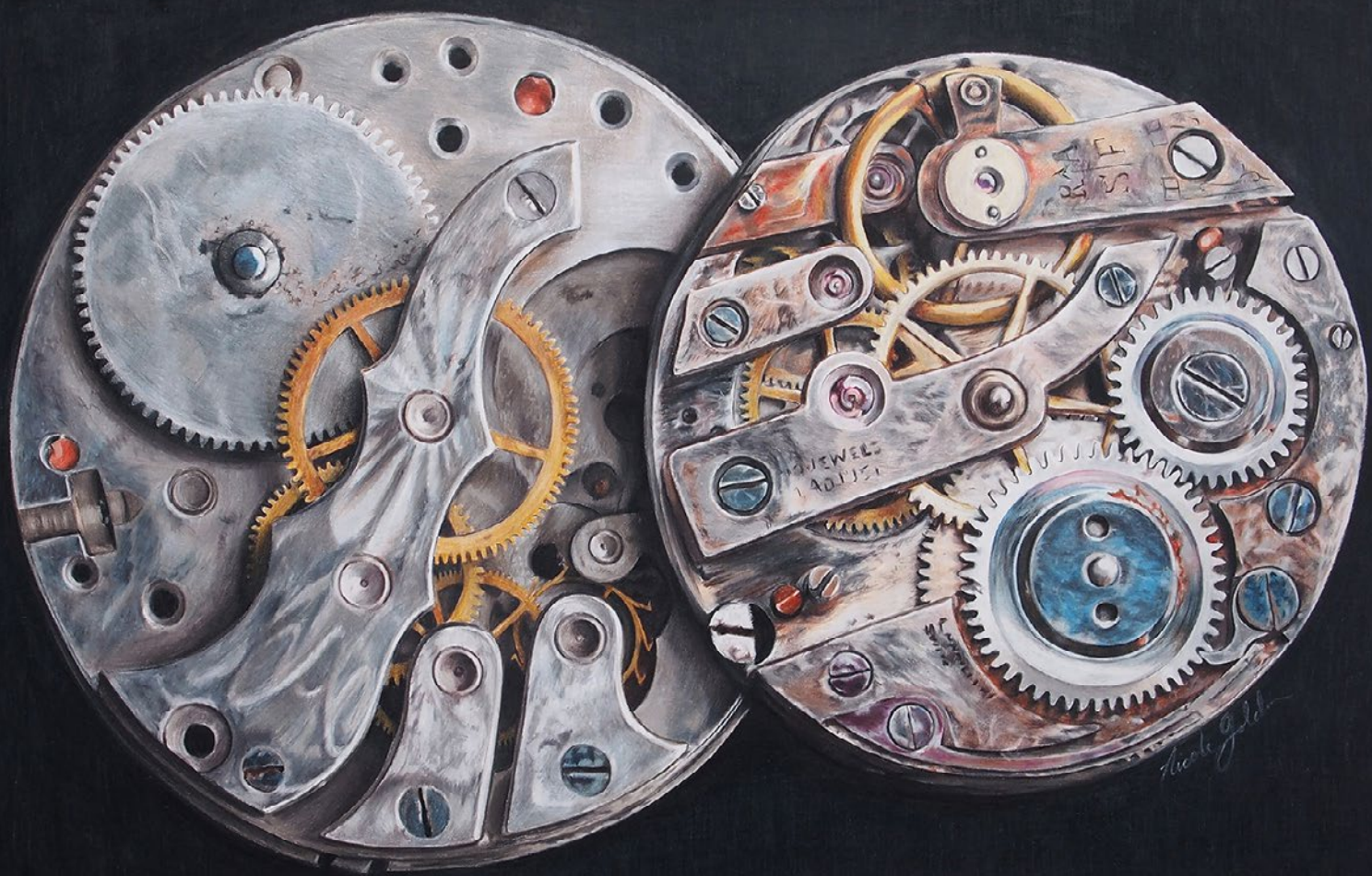
Bristol smooth paper allows me to attain the level of depth and shading that I aim for. Prismacolor pencils are my go-to brand of colored pencils, but I always love experimenting with new brands or materials. I recently started using mineral oil for blending. I'm still learning what I can do with it.

One thing I have realized while creating this series "A Story In Time" is that there is no such thing as perfection.

Also, I find that I miss drawing people. I would like to combine the two subject matters in the future. Not exactly sure what that's going to look like, but therein lies the fun.

I'm extremely fortunate to have found a passion for art. When I'm emerged in drawing, time disappears.





"May We Meet Again" 15x24"

I have two shows coming up, DragonCon in Atlanta, GA on Labor Day weekend (originals and prints for sale) and Creative Mill in Roswell, GA on October 12th and 13th (originals for sale). Prints are available on my website.



NicoleGoldman.com

