
TREE OF LIFE
Series 1

Beyond
the
Red Shoes

paintings from the heart
by

Karen Curran



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As a resident of the beautiful Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia I acknowledge the Darug and the Gundungurra Nations as the traditional custodians of this land.



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The Awakening

re-igniting an interest in life

noticing

wanting more



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The Awakening

The Invitation

The invitation to explore

The call



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The Invitation

Why the title 'Beyond the Red Shoes'?

The Red Shoes

The original tale was created by Hans Christian Andersen -
this version adapted by Karen Curran

Beware - a gruesome tale.

Long ago there was a little girl without a mother, who had no shoes. She saved pieces of red cloth and made herself a pair of red cloth shoes which she loved, because she had created them from her heart. Her name was Karyn.

Then a wealthy woman decide to take her in and treat her as her daughter. She was cleaned and given good clothes and new shiny black shoes, but her old clothes and her precious red shoes were destroyed. Many people thought that Karyn should be and act grateful.

However, this caused much sadness in Karyn because the red shoes had given her a purpose and much joy. Now she was confined to being a perfect child - sitting still quietly and not speaking aloud without being spoken to, hugging all her thoughts and sorrows to herself. Inside herself there was a secret burning in her heart as she yearned for her old red shoes more than anything.

Karyn's life now was very strict and she was prepared for her Confirmation (First Communion) in the village church. This occasion was considered very special, so a new white dress and a special pair of shoes were required. The old woman took the little girl to the crippled shoemaker for the new shoes.



Beyond the Red Shoes is the pictorial interpretation of my own journey.

From The Awakening, to The Invitation to explore within, to Letting Go - having to let go of the ties that bind (eg the red shoes), to New Beginnings and wonders, Transformation, and the ultimate willingness to start The Descent into the depths of the unknown.

I understand that many of us go on this journey and it's up to each individual whether to accept or reject The Invitation or Call when or if it comes. You may just like to enjoy the paintings without reading anything into them.

My prayer for you dear reader, is to be inspired by my paintings, no matter what stage you are at.

May you find peace and joy, and remember your song.

Karew



Blessed We Are

Blessed we are to dance on this ground
the rhythm of saints to carry the sound
We hold a prayer for the Earth, for the ones yet to come
May you walk in beauty and remember your song.

Remember why you came here
Remember your life is sacred.

Peia Luzzi - www.peiasong.com

Lyric from 'Blessed We Are' from the album

Four Great Winds: A Global Voyage Into Sacred Song

quoted with permission from Peia with grateful thanks



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Encouragement

As we look around us, or back over the years, we can often see snippets of encouragement that we did not recognise.

Below is an extract from a note my late uncle sent to me a few years ago on one of my birthdays, before he passed, that only came to fruition this year.

I hope it encourages you also, no matter what you do in life.

Karen
Atune to look, absorb and
discover your creative spirit,
using all the skills already
mastered in the service of
graphics and applied design.
Project your TRUE SELF
via SELF EXPRESSION.
In a word FLY.

Love Ross

Ross Doig
Artist, Teacher and Conservationist



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