



/ MAKING A SPLASH /

# Dina Brodsky

A hit on Instagram, one might say that Dina Brodsky's series of gouache miniatures profiling birds around the world has taken flight. "Many years ago," she says, "I fell in love with Islamic miniatures, as well as medieval manuscript illumination, and tried to experiment with some of the techniques those artists used." Brodsky tried egg tempera and gold leaf before settling on gouache for its less finicky application.

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Brodsky's fascination with birds has come primarily from personal experience, watching an elderly woman feed pigeons every morning over a bridge and the frequent occurrence of birds in her favorite poems. "Birds have been appearing in my paintings and sketchbooks ever since I started painting," the artist says. "I've included them in my paintings as stand-ins for people." Her miniatures project is inspired by a Pablo Neruda quote that says, "Bird by bird, I've come to know the earth." Brodsky says, "It's a way of discovering the world through a single window."

The artist isn't the only one benefiting from her research. "I have a toddler, so this is a chance to do something that's interesting to both of us," she says. "I tend not to think further ahead than my current series, but I do know that I'll always be painting."



CLOCKWISE  
**Green Bird** (gouache on paper, 6½x4¼)

**Beacon Down** (gouache on paper, 9¼x7)

**Hummingbird** (gouache on paper, 4¾x4½)