

Leilani Norman

Bellingham, Washington

b. 1962, Lamesa Texas





Blue Foothills (acrylic on canvas, 40in x 30in)

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My current artistic practice draws inspiration from the lives and work of 20th-century abstract expressionists. Agnes Martin in particular fascinates me. Like Martin, I find solace in working with a tranquil mind, allowing the creative process to unfold spontaneously. Without relying on photographs or preliminary studies, I immerse myself in the viewer's experience of constructing meaning from the evolving imagery on the canvas. Through layers of spontaneous color and shape, I invite viewers to engage with my artwork, encouraging their unique interpretations and personal connections. By fostering this collaborative relationship, my aim is to create an artistic space that invites contemplation and inspires dialogue

Common themes in my work are nature, human-nature interactivity, and emotional landscape, which materialize as abstract landscape, abstract botanical, and non-representational imagery. The expansiveness in my abstract landscape pieces is influenced by views along the Salish Sea. There are structural elements present in my work that descend from my longtime three-dimensional artmaking experience. My paintings are mostly executed in acrylic on canvas, 40"x30" and larger. I also make color studies in gouache on paper.

I have operated various studios over the last twenty-five years, producing art jewelry, ceramics, metal, and glass objects. I am also Co-Founder of Caring is Art, which promotes well being through a diverse and culturally relevant narrative, through the lens of artmaking. I hold a certificate in Gerontology from UW and a BA in Psychology. I am a former family caregiver, entrepreneur, author and parent of two young adults.

Recent exhibitions:

- 2023 Edmonds Art Festival Juried Fine Art Show, Edmonds, Washington
- 2023 Anacortes Arts Festival Juried Fine Art Show, Anacortes, Washington
- 2023 Annual Showcase, Allied Arts, Bellingham, Washington
- 2023 Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Bainbridge Island, Washington
- 2023 Climate Changing, Las Laguna Art Gallery, Laguna Beach, California
- 2023 Arts North Int'l 28, Hopkins Center for the Arts, Hopkins, Minnesota
- 2022 Small Expressions 21, Northwind Art, Port Townsend, Washington

Awards:

- 2022 Nihonga Pacific Northwest Art School
- 2020 Made in Yame, residency in Japan, School of Visual Arts & MOMA Wholesale
- 2007 Best of Year Product Design Award of Merit, *Interior Design*
- 2006 Best of Year Product Design Award of Merit, *Interior Design*
- 2003 American Crafts Council