laurie belanus odell

Bainbridge Island, Washington

Website: belanusodell.com

Email: belanusodell@comcast.net

BFA Illustration; California State University-Long Beach;

1983; Richard Oden

Freelance Illustrator in California, Utah, Colorado, and Washington

Group Shows with the Northwest Watercolor Society, Mercer Island, Kirkland, and Seattle galleries

Exhibition; Best of the West; Boise, Idaho

Continued Education; Studies under artist Charles Emerson, Seattle, Washington; 2013 to present

Drawing and painting has always been my greatest interest. Celebrating the natural world and the people who live in it. Not until I discovered Charles Emerson did I begin to understand the deeper levels of Modern Art. It is not just what I see but how I organize the elements, the colors I choose (Albers) and where and how I choose to apply them, the repeating geometry, and the tonal passages; all produce an underlying rhythmic voice. I now practice experimentation and project challenges to develop my paintings into a more expansive experience for the viewer. My goal is to conjure an image that you will wish to return to, discovering something new to read.

The "Godzilla Meets King Kong" painting in the Bainbridge Island Museum of Art Spotlight 2023 is from a visit to San Francisco. On the corner of Mason and Washington is a cafe that plays an assortment of King Kong Godzilla movies. In this painting, I emphasized triangles which, in turn, provide a web. This web helps the viewer move around the painting and subconsciously connect to the overall experience and atmosphere.

Recently I have become less narrative. Learning that obscured and fewer details of rendering are often more exciting to me. Painting what I see but distorting the elements to describe the connectors that link this world. I relate very much to John Seed's term "Disrupted Realism,"; a blending of abstract and realism, "By interrupting the reality of their subjects with painterly improvisations..." Along with an influence from the Bay Area Figurative movement, from whom I learned to trust my intuition, and the Theosophist's visual artists (Mondrian, af Klint and Kandinsky), who believe geometric shapes are magical, leads to a greater expressiveness and spirituality for myself as a painter.



My husband, Charlie, is my incredible collaborator in my artistic endeavors. He and I have lived on Bainbridge Island for 27 years, where we raised our daughter Courtney and son Jack.





