

Amy Pleasant

Kingston, WA

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Amy Pleasant is a figurative painter. After spending several years in the field of education she returned to school to study at the Gage Academy of Art in the Drawing and Painting Atelier with Mark Kang O'Higgins. Her color saturated paintings are infused with the exploration of memory, and generational transition. Pleasant has participated in national exhibitions in Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York, as well as having had solo exhibitions in Seattle, Dallas and Amsterdam. Her first solo museum exhibition opens in August at the Canton Museum of Art in Canton, Ohio.

In 2014 she was one of twelve artists featured nationally by the Women's Caucus for the Arts and was a recipient of an Artist Trust Gap grant in 2015. She spent the summer of 2019 at the Arts and Social Justice residency for visual artists, writers, filmmakers and musicians at Blue Mountain Center in New York. This year her paintings were featured in and on the cover of Photo Trouvee Magazine.

Her work can be found in personal and corporate collections in the Pacific NW and the Netherlands. Pleasant is a studio artist at Graphite Arts Center in Edmonds and also works out of her studio in Kingston. Her poetry and writing can be found on her blog, "Life Meets Art", Huff Post and Bust Magazine. Pleasant enjoys spending time with her family and exploring the Northwest through hiking.

Works shown at BIMA

El Lenguaje de las Flores
(The Language of Flowers)
Oil on Canvas 36x36

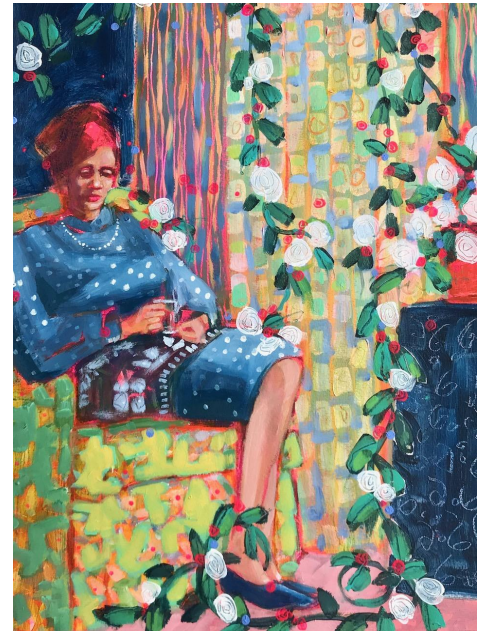
Throughout time flowers have held metaphorical significance for myths, legends and lore, each species having its own lexicon. It seemed a natural vehicle for my inclination to focus on the world of women, both present and past. The first portrait portrays my daughter in law and the blooms that are native to her birthplace, Aguascalientes, Mexico.



The Perfect Storm
Acrylic on Board, 18x24

My paintings are often rooted in vintage black and white photos from my own family album, thrift shops and flea markets. I carefully sort through stacks looking for the candid shots, the ones taken before or after the posed and perfect one. I look for clues; a look, the arch of a brow, a stance, some hint of the complexity of human relationship revealing itself through these candid moments caught on camera.

I found this photo taken on the night of my parent's yearly New Year's Eve party. I used to sneak out of bed and hide around the corner of the hall, watching and listening. This woman was listening to her husband seated next to her. He was loud and a little drunk. She just sat seething, running her finger around her glass, perhaps creating her own world in that moment and imagining the car ride home.



Selected Exhibitions

- 2023 *Family Album*, Canton Museum of Art, Canton, Ohio (Solo)
- 2021 *Go Figure*, San Juan Islands Museum of Art
- 2020 *Home*, ARC Gallery, San Francisco
- 2019 *Redeeming the Woods*, Blue Mountain Center, NY
- 2019 *Art & Activism*, Children's Museum of Art, NY
- 2019 *22nd International Open*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2018 *Lessons Learned*, Shoreline City Hall Gallery, Shoreline, WA (Solo)
- 2018 *Is there a Mother in the House*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2019 *With Liberty and Justice for Some*, Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA
- 2017 *Sanctuary City*, San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2017 *Primordial Imprint*, Dallas Public Library Gallery, Dallas, TX (Solo)
- 2016 *Terrible Beauty*, Gallery 110, Seattle, WA (Solo)
- 2015 *Inky Spokes*, Tacoma Art Museum

Awards

- 2015 Artist Trust Gap Grant
- 2014 Best of Women's Caucus of Art

Press

- Photo Trouvee*, Feature, May 2022
- The Daily Orange*, Syracuse, NY, Deadlocked and Loaded, February, 2021
- Writing Without Paper*, Artist's Respond to Pandemic, April 2020
- Art & Cake* (Los Angeles) WM Gallery Shines with Poetry and Politics, February, 2017
- Huffington Post*, Artist Takes Long Journey to Healing, May 2016
- Escape into Life*, Artist's Watch, May 2016

Complete CV at amypleasantseattle.com

