

# JUDITH GEBHARD SMITH

NIGHTWING STUDIO

Olympia, WA

Current gallery representation:

Childhood's End Gallery, Olympia WA  
The Artists' Gallery, West Olympia, WA  
SAATCHI Gallery, online

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Artist Bio/Statement:

My educational background includes a BA in art history from the University of Pittsburgh and a graduate degree in Art as Applied to Medicine from the University of Toronto. I began my professional life in 1965 as a medical artist for McGill University, and the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. This first career included black and white illustration for books, journals and various teaching materials for medical residents. It also encompassed now-antique analog animation techniques for the creation of teaching films, as well as construction of traveling medical exhibits.

In 1972, I moved to the Puget Sound area (Olympia) with my husband and son and started my fine art studio. A strong interest in the combination of art and science led me to spend almost



twenty years exploring all aspects of printmaking. When health concerns caused me to find another avenue of interest; I turned to neon sculpture with found objects. Then, searching for something that might be more marketable to support my studio, I discovered pastel in 1994, which became more satisfying both for my soul, and my creditors. During the last five years, I have enjoyed venturing into encaustic painting and most recently have begun to produce multimedia pieces, combining acrylic, ink, charcoal and collage. My two paintings in this exhibition fall into this latter category.

Energy and mystery are the most important components of my work. I am concerned with conveying a sense of movement beneath the surface...an obvious or latent energy. There is an

ambiguous element as well, in most of my paintings, conveying the feeling that something interesting has either just happened, or is about to happen in a particular (but abstracted) scenario.

This past year I have become distressed by the limitless amount of greed and cruelty that mankind can exhibit in his behavior. Watching the invasion of Ukraine by Russia has led me to create a series of four large paintings that I call “The Wings of War”. I am fortunate enough to have had the museum accept two of them into this show. “Coming In From The Cold” refers to the elaborate spy networks which exist in the world, and “Divertimento” refers to the possibility of music soothing the savage beast.



“That is beautiful which is produced by internal necessity, which springs from the soul”

Wassily Kandinsky