

Ericka Wolf

b. 1968 | Seattle, WA

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Ericka Wolf's paintings are driven by luminous color while embracing a reductive approach to expression. Inspired by the work of master color field painters such as Jules Olitski, Mark Rothko, Helen Frankenthaler, and photographers Eric Cahan and Hiroshi Sugimoto, her focus lies in capturing the essence and duality of the sky. Having grown up in the Pacific Northwest, Wolf's paintings are permeated with the region's transient light, capturing radiant expression rather than a mere snapshot of a single moment.

As an astrophile and modern color field painter, Wolf's artistic path has been shaped by her studies in oil and encaustic painting. She honed her skills through immersive coursework with the Gage Academy of Art, the NY Academy of Art, and the Grand Central Atelier. Wolf's work has been featured in group and solo exhibitions in the Northwest, as well as in private and public collections and publications in the United States, the UK, and Australia.

"The sky and water - mercurial and ever-changing - lend themselves to mystic qualities."
Delores Ament - *Iridescent Light*

Art heals. It can be transcendent, offering solace and introspection to those who engage with it. I have come to realize that the sky, with its vast and timeless presence, possesses a healing power of its own.

Drawing inspiration from neuroscience, I am fascinated by the profound impact of the sky on our consciousness. Research reveals that gazing at the sky activates areas of the brain typically engaged during meditation, dreaming, or spiritual experiences. Within this realm, I find myself captivated, contemplating both the universal and personal aspects of joy and suffering, particularly within the context of complex childhood trauma, loss and grief.

Through painting, I discover a sanctuary, a refuge where I can explore these complex emotions. I hope to extend this sense of tranquility and introspection to others, inviting them to share the profound experience of finding solace through art.

Each piece is created using layers of handmade oil paint, wax, and resin on birch panels. I employ brushes, palette knives, my fingertips and even blowtorches. These artworks originate from both my memory and photographs I have taken. Each sky painting is a reminder that regardless of the tumultuous state of our inner and outer world, shelter and renewed perspective can always be found within us. We need only take a deep breath and look upward. As Pema Chodron so profoundly wrote, "You are the sky. Everything else-it's just the weather."

Education

BA, Social Science, Washington State University
Studies and Continuing Education with Gage Academy of Art, New York Academy of Art and the Grand Central Atelier

Exhibitions

2023 Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Spotlight Group Show, Bainbridge Island, WA
2023 Berkano Gallery, featured artist, Seattle, WA
2023 Antonio, solo show, Seattle, WA
2022 Domicile, solo show, Seattle, WA
2022 Ryan James Fine Arts, group show, Kirkland, WA
2022 Berkano Gallery, group show, Seattle, WA
2022 The Phinery & Phinneywood Art Walk group show, Seattle, WA
2021 Antonio, solo show, Seattle, WA
2021 Ryan James Fine Arts group show, Kirkland, WA
2019 Museum of Museums, pop-up group show, Seattle, WA
2019 The Phinery & Phinneywood Art Walk group show, Seattle, WA
2019 Bellevue Art Museum, Studio Objects group show, Bellevue, WA
2019 Gray Sky Gallery, group show, Seattle, WA
2019 Four Hands Art Studio, group show, Seattle, WA
2018 Ryan James Fine Arts, group show, Kirkland, WA,
2018 Anthropologie, solo show, Seattle, WA
2018 The Phinery & Phinneywood Art Walk featured artist, Seattle, WA
2018 Wonderwall, group show, Austin TX
2018 Ryan James Fine Arts group show, Kirkland, WA
2017 The Phinery & Phinneywood Art Walk group show, Seattle, WA
2016 Danger, solo show, Bainbridge Island
2016 The Phinery & Phinneywood Art Walk group show, Seattle, WA
2015 Plank and Grain, group show, Seattle, WA

Publications

425 Magazine, Bellevue, WA, 2021
Risk Magazine Cover, UK, 2019
Cover of chapbook, Flow Variations by poet Andrew Gottlieb, 2017
Risk Magazine Cover, UK, 2016

Collections

Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA
Overtake Hospital, Medical Center, Bellevue, WA
Private collections in the United States, the UK and Australia

Gallery Representation:

Berkano Gallery, Seattle WA
Ryan James Fine Arts, Kirkland, WA



Nautical Dusk, 2022



Caliginous, 2022



Museum of Museums, 2021