

HART JAMES

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Photo credit: Mark Gardner

Growing up on a farm, Hart absorbed the natural world around her small child, self. A backpack filled with empty jars, Golden Guide Books on Insects, Plants and Birds, she spent the daylight hours studying the beauty, the transience, the processes and cycles, the details of construction in nature.

Hart has come to realize that very few people have her background. In her early years on the farm, she spent all the daylight hours in nature. She wandered the family farm and all of the adjoining farms of the neighbors. It was more than 1500 acres of countryside and farmland. In these surroundings, she became attuned to the natural world in a way that seems more connected to earlier societies, than with our present day world. She intuited natural processes that are just now being 'discovered' by modern scientists. Hart understood the infinity of space,

the insignificance of man, the transient nature of life, and the omnipotent power of the life force of nature. This was at the age of ten.

After spending her young adult life absorbed with nature and art (museums, printmaking, and mixed media), Hart pursued a career in landscape design and installation. She approached this as an art form. Transforming spaces by moving large amounts of soil, large boulders to hold in river banks, adding dry laid stone paths and walls, or brick, building structures for the garden (breezeways, pergola, gates, etc), and planting 25 trees down to the smallest of perennials. The boxwoods became Noguchi sculpture, the layering of plants juxtaposed with the man made elements became a painting framed by views from the windows.

After prevailing through life's challenges, Hart "ran away (from 'work') to paint," said with a smile. She has painted nonstop since doing so. Initially, Hart painted entirely with a palette knife and rag. This was a conscious decision to hinder her natural ability to draw realistically and to add a rawness of paint and emotion. Working with a respect for the accidental and for the development of the painting on its own terms, Hart forged on. Listening and sometimes dancing to music while painting, Hart's intent was to put this energy and the energy of nature into each painting.

The charcoal brand that her artist grandmother used became an integral part of her process. Sometimes, the charcoal lines show under the paint or at the edge of the painted area. Other times, the charcoal mixes with the paint and becomes a color and other times, Hart draws directly into the paint with a vigor of intent.

The entire process is a meditation, an attempt to capture that force, that awe inspiring beauty that Hart grew up observing. It requires a focus of intention that requires a structuring of daily life that respects this mind set. Hart has recently moved to the beautiful Skagit where there is always inspiration. She limits her activities outside of painting, enjoying an almost hermit existence and routine, and is happy. From an uninspiring beginning in painting, Hart continued with an inner knowledge that she could do this and do it well.

Hart has attended several residencies across the country, Oxbow Artists Residency in Saugatuck, MI, Morris Graves Residency in Loleta, CA, Seaside Residency in Seaside, FL, and the Vermont Studio Residency in Johnson, Vermont to which she was awarded a fellowship.

Realizing the uniqueness of her outlook and the strength of her inner life force, Hart has set about to put this into her painting. Hart considers her art as a poem, with bits and pieces revealed to make an emotion, an impression for the viewer. The intent is to draw the viewer closer to an understanding of nature, of art, of beauty, of emotion, and of their crucial interconnectedness with nature. We are nature. We sing with nature on the inside.

Hart has studied at the Art Institute of Chicago, and the San Francisco Art Institute, with Anne Truitt, Vera Berdich, Larry Thomas, and Ed Pashcke, among others. Hart, also, studied at Northwestern University in art history, art, and biology.

In closing, Hart is influenced by all visual. She has a deep understanding of art history, having taught art history classes at the university level. The Chinese painters of the Sung Dynasty is of great importance to her work, just as it was to the artists of the Northwest School of Art. Also, the Japanese Zen painters, Morris Graves, Deibenkorn, Matisse, Bonnard, Arthur Dove, Peter Doig, Marlene Dumas, and some contemporary artists showing in NYC, Lorraine Stephanson, Mark Milroy, to name a few.

GALLERY AFFILIATIONS

LewAllen Galleries, Santa Fe, NM
Harris/Harvey Gallery — Seattle, WA
William Havu Gallery — Denver, CO
New Editions Gallery — Lexington, KY

EDUCATION 1970-1979

Northwestern University
Art Institute of Chicago
San Francisco Art Institute
Studied under Anne Truitt, Vera Berdich, Ed Paschke, and Alex Castro

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2017

Vermont Studio Center Fellowship Residency, Johnson, VT — AWARDED FELLOWSHIP

2016

Escape to Create Artist Residency, Seaside, FL, Residency and Salon

2015

Morris Graves Foundation Residency, Loleta, CA

1979

Oxbow Artist Residency, Oxbow Artist Colony, Saugatuck, MI

SOLO SHOWS

2023

'Songs of the Earth,' Harris Harvey Gallery, Seattle, WA

'Returning Home,' New Editions Gallery, Lexington, KY

2022

'Nature on the Inside,' Harris Harvey Gallery, Seattle, WA

'Wild in Flow,' Karin Clarke Gallery, Eugene, OR. With Humberto Gonzales

'Earth, Water, Sky,' Northwind Art Center, Port Townsend, WA

2021

'Song of the Earth,' Northwest Museum of Art and Culture, Helen South Alexander, Spokane, WA

'Peace of the Wild,' Harris Harvey Gallery, Seattle, WA

Carillon Point - Kirkland, WA, curated by Malayka and Tom Gormolly of Gormally Consultants, Seattle

'Cathedral of the Sacred,' A Full Sensory Installation. Collaboration with Janice Arnold - SPSCC
Leonora R. Fuller Gallery, Olympia, WA. Canceled for Covid.

2019

'Blue: Northwest Landscapes,' Harris Harvey Gallery - Seattle, WA

Smith&Vallee Gallery - Edison, WA. With Jan Hoy, 3-D artist

'Zen.' Gallery 110 - Seattle, WA

2018

Tacoma Community Gallery at Gig Harbor - Tacoma, WA

Pierce College Gallery - Tacoma, WA

Gallery 110 - Seattle, WA