

DONNA LEAVITT

Edmonds, WA

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ARTIST STATEMENT REVERING NATURE

From 2006 to 2008, I served in the Peace Corps/Macedonia and in order to bring the art I made there home, I had to devise a way it could all be packed simply. Thus, the multiple pieces of paper which could be returned to a folio and carried in my suitcase! This approach allowed me to work on a large scale for the drama and interest it evokes. I had my first exhibition of the big tree drawings, there were five then, just before leaving service at the Struga, Macedonia, Art Museum in 2008.

Since coming home, I have continued with the multi-piece drawings as I find that approach gives the big works an appealing liveliness and movement. Keeping them unframed, but mounted on backings, in groups of several per backing, allows for portability and storage.

Trees have been the subjects of my work for many years. I develop my format from photos I've taken of trees from different parts of the world to my own yard! I want to bring the viewer's focus up close to examine shadows and texture for an intimate visual experience. The work shown here reflects my admiration and deep affinity for trees. My constant message is to remind the viewer of their importance to all living things - our world. They are great healers, as everyone who has walked amongst them, hugged one for blessing or comfort, enjoyed their shade and their voices can attest to.

About the pieces in this show:

The Nest is a tree in a park in England near the home my family had in St. Albans. It is among the trees I photographed when my daughter-in-law took me for a lovely walk. I loved the structure of the upper branches how they seemed to form a protected area, nest-like. In interpreting the image I was surprised to see how abstract my drawing became.

"Art happens in between what the eye sees and the hand produces!"

"UP" is a cedar tree I pass in one of the walks around my own neighborhood. It is behind a fence and one day I was inspired to look UP and this is what I saw. I love the patterns made when you are able to look up into our big cedars. Have you done this?



City Hall of Edmonds, From Darkness to Light II

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2022	<i>Women Painters of WA, group show,</i> Aljoia Mercer Island WA
	Finalist in the 2022 Artavita Contest
	<i>The Keller Prize,</i> Listing in the on-line gallery
	<i>Artist of Edmonds Waterfront</i> Edmonds Waterfront Center
	<i>Golden – 50 and Older International Show,</i> Laguna Beach, CA
	<i>Gallerium Art Prize (GAP) 2022,</i> Gallerium Art Exhibitions, online exhibition, Gallerium Art Exhibitions
	<i>The Trees Among Us,</i> Inaugural Exhibition at Graphite Art Building, Edmonds, WA
	<i>Creative Paradigm,</i> Matzke Fine Art Gallery & Sculpture Park
2021	<i>Lumiere, Art Fluent</i> Art-Fluent.com/lumiere
	<i>Summer 2021 exhibition,</i> Exhibizone, online
	<i>This is Me,</i> Women Painters of Washington Juried Show, Seattle, WA

	<i>Reflections</i> , Women Painters of Washington Juried Show, FIRST place award, Seattle, WA
2020	<i>Botanical</i> , Las Laguna Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA online gallery: Las Laguna Gallery
	<i>Muse</i> , Art Fluent, Art-Fluent.com/Muse
	<i>Celebrating 90 years!</i> , Matzke Fine Art and Sculpture Park, March to April 2020
2019	On Location, WPW Gallery exhibition, Seattle, WA
	<i>Artist of the Year Competition</i> , Circle Foundation For the Arts, Honorable Mention Award, Lyon, France
	Collective Visions Gallery, juried show, Bremerton, WA
	Outside In, WPW Gallery exhibition, Seattle, WA
	Invitational Solo Exhibit, Cascadia Art Museum, Edmonds, April 10 - June 30
	American Art Company, Tacoma, Elemental Rhapsody Juried Show
2018	Drawing Discourse, 9th Annual International Exhibition of Contemporary Drawing, UNC, Asheville, North Carolina
	Portraits Without People, Women Painters of Washington Gallery, Seattle, WA
	Fusion; Women Painters of Washington Spring Juried Show, Gallery at the Park, Richland, WA
	Skagit Artists Fall Exhibition, juried show, Arts Alive, 2nd place, La Conner, WA
2017	Point of Lead, Women Painters of Washington Gallery, Seattle, WA
	"Revering Nature," Invitational Show, Bainbridge Island Art Museum, Bainbridge Island, WA
2016	Women Artists Coast to Coast - West, WPW and NAWA juried show, Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA
	"Revering Nature," Invitational Show, Vashon Center for the Arts, Vashon, WA
	Solo show of colored pencil drawings, University Unitarian Church, Seattle, WA
	Big Show, Women Painters of Washington Gallery, Seattle, WA
	Juried Show, 3rd Annual Living Mark Exhibition, Verum Ultimium Art Gallery, Portland, OR
	18th Annual Juried Show, Expressions Northwest, Northwind Art Center, Port Townsend, WA
2015	Auburn City Hall Gallery, Invitational, January 30 - February 27
	Visual Voices, WPW Juried Show, Larson Gallery, Yakima Community College, WA
	Black & White + one. Women Painters of Washington Gallery, Seattle
	Into the Woods: Leavitt/Meyers/Weiner, Rogue Gallery and Art Center, Medford, OR
	Wild About Trees Exhibition, Group Exhibit of Trees in Art, The Gallery at Grace, Bainbridge Island, WA
	WPW Painting Poetry Fall Show, Women Painters of Washington Gallery, Seattle
2014	Objectification, Annual Invitational. Smith and Vallee Gallery, Edison, WA
	WPW Annual Members Exhibition, Women Painters of Washington Gallery, Seattle
	19th Annual Juried Art Show, Schack Art Center, Everett, WA