

Amy Jackson

Bio

Born

1964, Cartersville, Georgia, USA

Education

Bachelor of Arts, Spanish: Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia, 1987. Seventy-nine hours toward an additional, interdisciplinary degree in International Relations; emphases in Political Science, International and U.S. Foreign Policy, Global Challenges, and Latin American Studies

Artistic Education

Self-taught

Contact

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Description

Media: Amy works in the following art media: painting, photography, digital art, writing, and music. She primarily works on visual art, but schedules time to work in other media, to keep them flowing as well.

Style: Her paintings tend to be abstract, but she is inspired by Nature, especially the vibrancy and sensuality of trees, and represents them playfully and dynamically. Her abstract paintings explore energy and natural textures, to represent emotional journeys and states of being. Her painting began in 1993, as a way to express herself, because she was experiencing chronic facial and jaw pain at the time. As the physical pain healed, her paintings became a way to explore emotions over the years, both the sublime and excruciating.

Amy's photographs range in content from abstract close-ups of industrial metal, machines and glass -- to close-ups of the plant world -- to studies of architecture in various cities, and vintage cars. She also captures natural landscapes, continuing the themes of the forest, trees, rocks and water that she explores with her paintings.

Influences: Amy was influenced by Matisse and Picasso as a young child in the sixties, excited especially by their use of shapes and color, and Matisse's paper cuttings, including "Mermaid and Parakeet." Sixties Pop art also made a big impression on her growing up. She became a huge fan of Georgia O'Keefe in her adolescence, and remains so today. As a young adult in college, Amy took an Art History course, and loved the glowing colors of the Renaissance and Dutch painters, American landscape painter

Frederic Church, and Winslow Homer, as well as the modern forms of expression from the 40s-70s. She studied Picasso's "Guernica" in college as part of a course on Spanish history which included the Spanish Civil War. She also is influenced by El Greco and Surrealists Francisco Goya, Salvador Dali, Remedios Varo, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. By chance, she was exposed to the work of Maxfield Parrish and admires his use of glowing colors and transcendent scenes. In the 80's, she became a fan of Jacob Lawrence, for his simple shapes but powerful themes, similar to her love of Matisse's paper cuttings. Amy moved back to the DC area in 2003, to be closer to the national arts culture, and is inspired by the older and emerging artists she is exposed to here, and her work as an ongoing conversation with them.

Inspiration: Nature in all its forms inspires Amy more than anything else, because it is simultaneously pure, chaotic, orderly and fascinating. She believes that Nature is not only the plant world or the ecosystem, but all forms of energy, both organic and inorganic, and she explores this theme across multiple media. However, the landscape and skyscape are the most thrilling and soothing for her spirit, and most representative of the state of calm beingness that she seeks to maintain. One can see human and floral shapes and textures in her work, whether they be paintings or photographs, and there is a sense of synchronous wonder as well as struggle. Her studies of Buddhism, creative visualization and meditation deepen this exploration of wonder and fascination, and she seeks a contemplative arts approach to all of her work, as a way of centering, editing, and transforming herself and her art.