**Chrisi Blyth**

**Springhead Summer**

While living in Central Florida, one of my favorite summer activities to beat the heat was to go to the many spring-fed lazy rivers or watering holes. The water flowed out of the fissures in the aquifer at a chilly 72 degrees year-round, and in the heat of the summer was so refreshing. Floating down the lazy river in one’s inner tube, passing the lush vegetation, wild birds, otters, and fish was idyllic.

In this series I set forth to capture those memories of crisp, cool water and nature’s gifts; the fun with family and friends; and the respite from the summer heat.

The primary focus of this body of work was on color, cool watery blues, warm oranges, and summery greens, value to balance composition and move the eye across the painting, and shapes to give a sense of place. Additionally mark-making and lines come into play as a part of my personal voice and provide a sense of movement and whimsy. There is a predominance of rectilinear shapes across the series, but my favorite curvilinear shapes also show. There are hard and soft lines to direct the eye and encircle shapes. There are hard and soft edges for variety. These paintings are in acrylic, and mixed media on paper or canvas.

A strong element of my art is a sense of whimsy, playfulness, and joy. My career in medical sciences has long required a dedication to seriousness and precision, time pressures, and a perfectionist mindset that can drain the spirit. It is for this reason, to balance my spirit and quiet my left-brain perfectionism, that I paint abstractly, to render a moment in search of joy and peace through color, shape, and line.

Personal note:

I LOVE this series, some of my most personal work yet! Some of these works truly transport me to great summer fun times with my children (who are grown and on their own now). What a joy to be able to create that.