ARTIST’S STATEMENT - Lynn Hennagin

Bio

I am a non-objective, abstract artist. Art has always been the vehicle through which I have found it easiest to express myself. I create because I have to; it brings much joy to my life. I enjoy acrylic painting as well as oil and cold wax and I have recently added encaustic painting to my repertoire. Each of these mediums possesses a unique character of it’s own to enhance the artist’s vision.

Statement

Adhering to the tradition of the non-objective, abstract expressionists, my work stems from a subconscious and intuitive process. The paintings involve a layering of textures, gestural marks, lyrical lines and color to create a history. I am heavily inspired by the richness found in nature, the colors, the textures and the variations. I try to share my responses to the many special places in nature through the moods and emotions they invoke in me with the viewer. In nature I see both a strength and a softness that surrounds us but am particularly drawn to the colors. I was the little third grader mixing her own nail polish colors to get just the right color.

Process

My painting process involves applying paint in layers upon layers. The oil and cold wax process, like it’s name, involves the use of cold wax building layer upon layer for texture and history. The encaustic paintings require paint mixed with hot wax then used together with heat using a torch or heat gun. Various tools are used for both methods, for adding texture and interest for both. Because Oil and Cold Wax are done wet-in-wet (alla prima), there are possibilities for fluidity with color blending, textural imprinting and excavating that enrich the finished artwork.

Both Oil and Cold Wax and Encaustic involve building up the layers only to tear down and scrape back areas while using excavating and veiling to create a sense of mystery through many layers of media. Mark-making and asemic writing are often added to the surface giving even more history to the painting. These works are created on cradled panels, paper and canvas.

My work is still evolving and I look forward to years of new ideas and techniques with paint.