

## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ARTIST

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### WHAT IS YOUR PRIMARY MEDIUM?

Acrylic

### TALK ABOUT YOUR DECISION TO BECOME AN ARTIST & MAJOR INFLUENCES?

In college I was a fine arts major, but I had not considered really living as an artist until many years later. I had the pleasure of attending a workshop in Sonoma, CA and, after 20 years in graphic design, I realized I was actually a painter. It was just like someone flipped on a light switch. So, I have to give Dianne Neumann, the artist who gave the workshop, credit as a major influence. And, my parents were always supportive of my creative pursuits, not to mention responsible for my DNA. They were both very talented.

### WHAT IS YOUR SOURCE OF INSPIRATION?

My inspiration comes from within, almost demanding to be released. At some point this may diminish and I'll need to find an external source, but for now, I am enjoying the flow.

### AT WHAT AGE DID YOU REALIZE THAT ART WAS YOUR PASSION?

I honestly knew as a kid, but didn't believe I could be paid for doing something I loved. So, I went the route of graphic arts, in a variety of forms. I thought I could at least get paid to be "creative". When I went to the first painting workshop, it was like going home. I remembered that I LOVE to make pictures.

### CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE CREATIVE PROCESS OF CREATING YOUR ART?

I practice the art of getting out of the way. When I approach a blank canvas, all I really start with is a color, which leads me to another, and another. I develop a relationship with the piece as it comes to life. I honestly have the most success with my paintings when I do as little as possible to control them. Someone asked me once "So, what are you working on?" And, without hesitation, I replied, "The paintings tell me."

### WHAT KIND OF TRAINING HAVE YOU HAD?

I was a printmaker in college, and took drawing, sculpture, ceramics ... but no painting. Working with Dianne Neuman has been less about instruction and more about the opportunity to explore painting. So I am primarily self taught.

### WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS?

Gerhard Richter, Vermeer, Anne Stahl, Diane Arbus, Alexander Calder...

### WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING TODAY IF YOU HAD NOT BECOME AN ARTIST?

I guess I would still be a Creative Director for some ad agency.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR HOME, YOUR WORKSPACE—ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE.

We are definitely still adjusting to Florida after all our years in San Francisco & Oakland, but we love our home in Springfield, and the Studio we built is a dream. Our 4 year old Eli is my biggest fan, and I enjoy asking his opinion when it comes time to name my paintings. It's like getting a peek inside his brain.