

Kristy Swanson

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Artist Profile

Kristy Swanson is an emerging artist working in encaustic, encaustic monoprints, and mixed media. Influenced by shapes and patterns found in nature and urban environments, she creates subtle and meditative artworks through the use of shape, line, and texture. She strives for a quiet and complex beauty, balancing simplicity of expression with rich sensory details.

Grants and Awards

2019 Artist in Residence, Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts
2018 Artist in Residence, Encausticcastle

Exhibitions

2020 Juried Show "Boundaries", Confluence Gallery, Twisp WA
2020 Center on Contemporary Art Seattle Group Show
2019 Solo Show, Miro Tea, Seattle WA
2019 Gallery Artist, Fogue Studios, Seattle WA
2019 Group Show, "In the Abstract", Sammamish City Hall, Sammamish WA
2019 Solo Show, Boston Consulting Group, Seattle WA
2018 Juried Show, Seattle Emerging Arts Fair
2018 Juried Show "Visual Impressions" Finalist
Ryan James Gallery, Kirkland WA
2018 Solo Show, GEM Salon, Kirkland WA
2018 Solo Show, West Elm Bellevue
2018 Kirkland Art Center Studio Tour, Kirkland WA
2018 Juried Show "The Beholden Eye"

Confluence Gallery, Twisp, WA
2017 Juried Show, "Put a Bird On It"
ArtEAST, Issaquah, WA
2017 Solo Show, GEM Salon, Kirkland, WA
2017 Kirkland Art Center Studio Tour, Kirkland WA
2016-2019 Contributing Artist, ArtEAST, Issaquah, WA

Artist's Statement

I draw my inspiration from the natural world. I'm fascinated by shapes, patterns, rhythm, repetition, and nuance that I see everywhere I look. I'm particularly drawn to tiny details that typically go unnoticed—the fractals of a leaf, the shifting patterns that wind creates on water, the multitude of colors found in a handful of sand. My paintings reference nature indirectly, conjuring images of landscape, or water, or stone, or flora, without being intentionally representational.

I strive for balance between two polarities: on the one hand I seek simplicity, clean lines, elegance, and calm; and on the other hand I want to create nuance and complexity within that spareness through the inclusion of texture, layers, and detail. I aim to achieve a quiet and complex beauty that balances simplicity and subtlety with rich sensory details.