

KARA GREENWELL

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EDUCATION

2008 MBA, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA

2000 BA, *cum laude*, Miami University, Oxford, OH

AWARDS

2021 3rd Place, Escondido Municipal Gallery, Escondido, CA

2020 Best in Show, Ashton Gallery, San Diego, CA

SELECT JURIED EXHIBITIONS

2021

Pure Paint, Arts Benicia, Benicia, CA (curated by Nicholas Wilton)

SoCal's Best Upstarts and Innovators, Escondido Municipal Gallery, Escondido, CA

Anthropocene Epiphany, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA

International Summer Exhibition, The San Diego Museum of Art Artists Guild, San Diego, CA

HYPE!, The Studio Door, San Diego, CA

An Exhibition of Things Called Art, Hilliard Gallery, Kansas City, MO

Drawn to Paper, Atlantic Gallery, New York, NY (curated by Susan Rostow)

23rd Annual Rio Brazos Juried Exhibition, Tarleton State University, Granbury, TX (curated by Diane Durant)

Artist's Vision 2021, Marin Society of Artists, San Rafael, CA (curated by Kim Eagles-Smith)

An Exhibition of Things Called Art, Hilliard Gallery, Kansas City, MO

Spring Juried Show, realArt, Agoura Hills, CA

Obsessed, Ashton Gallery, San Diego, CA

Collector's Choice 2021, Studio Channel Islands, Camarillo, CA (curated by Jo Lauria)

2020

International Winter Exhibition, The San Diego Museum of Art Artists Guild, San Diego, CA

LA Open Exhibition, TAG Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (curated by Juri Koll)

Another Moment in Time, The Old Town Arts & Crafts Guild, Cutchogue, NY (curated by Seung Lee)

At Midnight, Ashton Gallery, San Diego, CA (curated by Daniel Foster)

CCAN 2020, The Center for Contemporary Arts, Abilene, TX (curated by Thomas Motle)

Next Big Thing, Studio Channel Islands, Camarillo, Can (curated by Leah Ollman)

Annual Summer Juried Show, realArt, Agoura Hills, CA

Regional Invitational, The Studio Door, San Diego, CA

11th Annual Open International Online Show, International Society of Acrylic Painters, Santa Cruz, CA

Expressions 2020, Marin Society of Artists, San Rafael, CA (curated by Andrea Schwartz)

Not An Art Fair, ShockBoxx Gallery, Hermosa Beach, CA

2019

True Blue, Ashton Gallery, San Diego, CA

International Art Flavor, The In Gallery, San Diego, CA

SERVICE

2020 – 2021 Arts Coordinator, Roots & Wings Charitable Foundation, Chicago, IL

2017 – 2021 Contributing Artist, Museum School Art Auction, San Diego, CA

2017 Public Art Selection Panelist, Commission for Arts and Culture, San Diego, CA

2012 – 2016 Vice Chairman, La Jolla Playhouse Leadership Council, La Jolla, CA

ARTIST STATEMENT

Painting found me in the wake of a loss. Art was an old friend, sadly neglected for decades. But in my time of need, it snuck up from behind, wrapped its arms around me and softly whispered, “You will be alright.” And my love affair with abstract acrylics began.

I paint from my heart and from my gut, trying desperately to stay out of my head. Hair pulled back, hands caked in pigment, I explode onto the canvas. Driven by instinct, my paintings bring to light the cauldron of emotions bubbling beneath my consciousness.

Playful, yet contemplative. Broken, but hopeful. Fragile, while so very strong. My work releases the kaleidoscope of my soul.

Overtime, I’ve realized that intuitive painting is not just my therapy, but my platform. The themes of my internal narrative are universal to womankind. In recognizing this broader significance, I seek to create textured paintings that recognize the impossible mix of optimism and despair defining femininity today.

ARTIST BIO

Kara Greenwell is an abstract artist with a split-brain personality. One part analytical nerd, one part feisty creative, she unleashes her intellectual and emotional layers into textured acrylic and mixed media paintings. A former marketing executive with a Harvard MBA, Kara turned to art in the wake of a personal loss. Painting in the abstract allowed Kara to find release and healing on the canvas.

With ardent gestures and intuitive shapes, Kara’s work reflects a vivid internal narrative. The artist finds inspiration in the interplay between light and dark, between hope and despair. Her works juxtapose personal narrative with the universal challenges of womankind. Kara’s dynamic paintings have been featured in galleries nationwide, including Atlantic Gallery in New York City, TAG Gallery in Los Angeles, and The San Diego Museum of Art and Ashton Gallery in her home city of San Diego.