

Luz Frye

Fine Artist

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Biography

As a young adult, artist Luz Frye prayed for people. This important practice of prayer in her life, what she calls “an ongoing conversation,” has steadily increased and matured through her years. Today, she prays through her artwork which can be regarded as prayers that happen to be in the form of paintings.

Luz finds meaning in what she says is like “praying backwards,” in which she thinks of the line of people and circumstances connected to simple, daily activities in her life at many points throughout the day, every day, such as peeling potatoes, in which she prays for the people who grew and harvested the potatoes, delivered them to the store, and stocked them, etc. It’s an example of how Luz elevates not only the meaning of prayer but the practice of praying for people in a specific way.

Luz has identified with being an artist all her life. As a young child growing up in Colombia, she attended Catholic school and studied and created art, painting in a very traditional style, but did not come to connect prayer to her artwork until recently, in her later adult life, when the pastor of her church asked her to paint live in front of the congregation during Sunday service. Luz received the lectionary passage in advance and studied it, coming up with something that started her praying through scripture in a different way as she began to pray for the congregation, and for the painting she had yet to create to have a meaningful message for the congregation. Painting had previously been like a spiritual retreat for Luz. For this painting, Luz was asked to paint about the Holy Trinity. After much prayer about the direction, she came to use the 3 primary colors of red, blue, and yellow and the abstract ideas came out instead of the traditional style and subject matter which she had painted for decades prior. For Luz, this became a paramount moment of connection, a new accord with her work, and a way to allow God to do the spiritual work of her creativity instead of holding onto the traditional ideas. Luz became free to create what the Holy Spirit offered, and today she allows that notion to center her paintings, and to freely move about and guide whether they become abstract, semi abstract, or realistic in their aesthetic. As the artist, she is

present to make choices in the paintings, but uses a form of discipline which she says doesn't come from her as she hears a voice telling her to "sit and be still."

Followers and viewers of Luz's work are often moved to tears. Many viewers of various faiths, denominations, and cultures experience her work, some making immediate connections, and some naming the people they know and the reasons they want to purchase a specific work that speaks to them in meaningful ways, all of which is something the artist says has always been her intention.

Today, Luz continues to be actively involved in her church, a prayer ministry which she leads, and exhibiting her work in galleries and exhibitions. She resides in Raleigh, North Carolina with her husband John where she works from her home studio. She begins each painting by praying over every work of art she creates, asking God that the painting will reach people in the way that they need it most and that it will remind them of God's love for them. Each painting has a spiritual message and prayer which Luz writes across the canvas before commencing on the layering of paint that creates the image and which accompanies the painting on a prayer card for the buyer.

Artist Statement

My paintings are rooted in my spirituality and faith. They are intuited messages of love and hope which arrive at the singular meaning that God is always with us and loves us. I have always prayed for people, and my paintings allow me to express that visually. My range of abstract and semi-abstract styles and choices in media result from the intuitive nature by which I create and support the freedom to respond to what a message of God's love looks like as a painting.

Beside my easel, I keep a prayer that I use before I begin to paint. In it I ask that I'm not in the way of listening as the messenger but also that I'm very present as an artist. I pray for people to experience God's love, joy, and presence from my paintings. I begin my paintings by writing a blessing or a biblical verse on the canvas in either pencil or paint and always with reverence in my handwriting. I may turn the canvas multiple times as the writing layers upon itself before commencing onto the next part of the painting. For me, this process binds purpose, meaning, and object. "The prayer is written on a card that is given to the buyer.

Many spiritual interventions take place throughout my work. People say things about my paintings such as “that is for me” or “I need that” and have named the loved one they need it for. Numerous times, people have gravitated toward a very specific painting and been moved to tears by it. Most people say something hopeful and joyful, explaining that they receive comfort from the painting, and how it feels like it’s specifically for them. As an artist whose purpose is to show people God’s love for them, this is exactly what I have prayed for.

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SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Painting The Tonalist Landscape, David Sharpe, online course 2024

The Abbreviated Landscape, David Sharpe, online course 2024

Abstract Landscapes, Monique Carr, online course, 2022-2023

Acrylic Textures and Layers, Jacqueline Sullivan, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2023

Color Theory for All Media, Margaret Scanlan, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2022

Mastering Composition, Ian Roberts, online course, 2021

Alcohol Inks, Mastering the Medium, Teri Jones, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2018

Drawing From the Right Side of the Brain, Margaret Scanlan, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2017

Composing Dynamic Acrylics, Annie Pais, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2016

Brave, Intuitive Painting, Flora Bowley, online course, 2015, 2016

Impressions in Nature, Bradley Wilson, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2015

Guerrilla Plein Air Painting, Robin Popp, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2015

Adventures in Mixed Media, Billie Shelburn, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2014

Plein Air Painting, Mary Jane Volkmann, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2013

Fearless Painting Adventures in Acrylics, Bradley Wilson, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2010

Fall Landscape in Plein Air, Mary Jane Volkmann, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2017

Old Masters Style of Painting, Melody Boggs, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2009

Dynamic Highlands Landscapes, Billie Shelburn, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2009

Painting with Palette Knives, Rocky Alexander, The Nature of Art Studio, 2008

Surface Design, Cynthia Lichfield, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2007
Into the Distance, Mary Jane Volkmann, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2007
Architectural Painting in Acrylics, Ingrid Lederer, Art of The Carolinas, 2006
Power Color, Caroline Jasper, Art of The Carolinas, 2005
Landscapes on Red Ground, Caroline Jasper, Art of The Carolinas, 2004
Painting Structures in Watercolor, Ken Cooper, John C. Campbell Folk School, 2003
Thirsty for Painting Water, Caroline Jasper, Art of The Carolinas, 2003

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024 Truist Gallery, DAG Members Showcase, Durham, NC

2024 Maria V. Howard Arts Center 66th Multi-Media Juried Art Exhibition,
Rocky Mount, NC

2024 VMRC Juried Art Exhibition, Harrisonburg, VA

2024 FALC Exhibition at The Golden Belt Studios, Durham, NC

2024 16th Annual Small Treasures Juried Exhibition, Cary NC Gallery of Artists

2024 Spring Daze Arts and Crafts Festival, Cary, North Carolina

2024 We Art Greensboro 2024: Structure, Greensboro, North Carolina

2024 The Mayton January-May Exhibition, Cary, North Carolina

2023 311 Gallery, "Spring to Life," Juried Exhibition, Raleigh, North Carolina

2023 Center for Visual Artists, "Members Juried Exhibition," Greensboro,
North Carolina

2023 Cape Fear Studios' "National 2D Juried Competition," Fayetteville, North
Carolina

2023 311 Gallery, "All Abstract" Juried Exhibition, Raleigh, North Carolina

2023 Artists Alliance of the Triangle, "Members Juried Show," Fuquay-Varina,
North Carolina

2022 Fine Arts League of Cary, "Annual Members Juried Exhibition," Cary,

North Carolina

- 2022 Center for Visual Artists, "Holiday Juried Show," Greensboro, North Carolina
- 2022 Chapel Hill Community Arts and Culture, Festifall 2022, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
- 2022 Fine Arts League of Cary, "Spring to Life" Juried Show, Cary, North Carolina
- 2022 Fine Arts League of Cary, "Preston Show," Cary, North Carolina
- 2022 Fine Arts League of Cary, "Margaux's Juried Show, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2022 311 Gallery, "National Show," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2021 Fine Arts League of Cary, "Vertical Illusions," Cary, North Carolina
- 2021 Boylan Heights Art Walk, "Juried Festival," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2019 Mordecai Art League, Front Porch Art Walk, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2018 Hayes Barton, Humble Heart Bazaar, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2017 RAW Tools, "Guns to Plowshares Art Show", Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2014 Mordecai Art League, Front Porch Art Walk, Raleigh, North Carolina

MEMBERSHIPS

Fine Arts League of Cary, Member

Greensboro Center for Visual Artists, Member

Artists Alliance of the Triangle, Member

Durham Artists Guild, Member