

Pamela Cook, Artist Bio

Part of my philosophy is that both the artist and the viewer can be moved simple scenes and objects that we understand and relate to in our everyday lives. My subjects are often landscape details or everyday objects, where I find poetry in the interplay of shapes, values, and color. A small stand of trees, a few windblown sunflowers, or a plate of vegetables ready to become dinner can move me to drop everything and start painting.

I loved to paint and draw as a child and teenager but took a more “practical” professional route in college and career. Unable to stay away from making art forever, I began oil painting in 2003. Although satisfying in many ways, it never felt quite the right fit for me. In 2014 I picked up my first pastel stick and was immediately hooked. Nothing matches the luminosity and richness of hue that these amazing sticks produce. I’m particularly moved by the pastel paintings of the French impressionists, as well as contemporary pastel masters.

People are often surprised that someone with an engineering and math background would end up an artist. But, math is integral to good composition and that background has helped me immensely as I approach each painting analytically before letting my freer side go. I’m grateful to have studied under some of the top pastel artists in the world and continue to grow in my art as I incorporate something from each teacher.

I occasionally work en plein air but especially enjoy the peace in my home studio. I have been juried into shows in New Jersey and North Carolina and have sold works through retail outlets and social media.