

Lynn Alker

lynnalker.com

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Facebook: facebook.com/lynnalkerart Instagram: instagram.com/lynnalker

Artist Biography

Lynn Alker requires that her art-making offer a substantial meaning and purpose, even if it's for herself.

For many artists, the formative years of their youth serve as an influential force in their art-making. For Lynn Alker, that's also true. As an adolescent raised in the deep south in the 1960's, Lynn was keenly aware of the racial turmoil and formed a sensitivity to these (and other) injustices. Today, a variety of politically charged emotions manifest in her abstract acrylic paintings on canvas. Bold applications of color and loose mark-making allow her to express topics such as mental health, ecological awareness, and feminine strife, among others which she hopes inspires the viewers' awareness and conscience. For Lynn, these realities guide the painting process and sometimes present to her after the fact.

By contrast to many of her contemporaries, Lynn's career began later in life and didn't originate with an early gravity for creating visual art or a formal arts education. While she was and is an avid collector of abstract visual art, she didn't create her first painting until she was in her early 60's. Lynn's passion for interior design and a strong career in flower growing led her to enroll in a painting class at a local arts center. Her beginning art classes were few and far between each other, but Lynn approached art-making with

an out-of-the gate seriousness. Since then, she has not stopped on her trajectory to create art. Lynn quickly realized that she had more to offer through abstract painting rather than the traditional subject matter she was first introduced to. She describes that abstractions best align with her desire for “the unknown” of what’s to come on the canvas. Since her first art classes in 2015, Lynn has attended dozens more professional arts development programs including master classes with nationally recognized educators, and she has a growing exhibition history that is free of trepidation about traditional artist career labels and pathways.

Lynn lives in Raleigh, North Carolina with her husband John with whom she has two adult daughters, two grandsons, and a dog Peyton. She is an active member of several arts organizations and works almost daily from her home studio.

Artist Statement

The mystery of abstraction speaks to me. Without thought as to the outcome, my oil and acrylic paintings on canvas, paper, and wood board begin with mark-making then evolve into what I call a “conclusion.” For me, there is a great anticipation throughout the process as I watch the work developing, turning, and arriving at places and ideas, much like the way a conversation does. I start with mark-making that often includes symbols, words, and phrases, then apply bold color and texture. I most enjoy working on hard boards which allow me, without inhibition, to gouge, excise, and dig into the paint layers which are often created with materials such as pastes, coffee, and dirt. With these materials I can build the surface and create the foundation for even more experimentation.

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SELECT PROFESSIONAL ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

Master Painting Workshop, Cullowhee Arts, 2019

Art and Success, *Powerful Design and Personal Color*, online course, 2020, 2019

Art and Success, *Watch, Learn, Grow*, online Course, 2020, 2019

Beginning Sculpture, North Carolina Museum of Art, 2019

Master Painting Workshop, Cullowhee Arts, 2018

Everything You Want to Know about Cold Wax Medium, Monarch Arts Center, 2017

Exploring Painting with Oil and Cold Wax, Contemporary Art Museum (CAM), 2016

Intuitive Approach to Abstract Painting, Jerry's Artarama, 2016

Acrylic Figures, Art of the Carolinas, 2016

Introduction to Cold Wax Medium Workshop, Art of the Carolinas, 2015

Bigger, Faster, Fresher, Looser Abstracts, Waverly Artists Studio, 2015

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Bev's Fine Art, Spotlight Series, "Lynn Alker," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2018 The Eye Institute, "Lynn Alker," Raleigh, North Carolina

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 311 Gallery, "Abstracts Matter," juried exhibition, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2021 Cary Gallery of Artists, "Small Treasures," juried exhibition, Cary, North Carolina
- 2021 Gallery Citrine, "Connection," juried exhibition, Wilmington, North Carolina
- 2021 Bridgeport Art Center, "Viral Collaboration," Chicago, Illinois
- 2021 Bev's Fine Art, "Golden Exhibition," Lynn Alker and Josef Kote, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2020 Artspace "Fresh," juried exhibition, juror Susan Tollefsen, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2020 311 Gallery, "Abstracts Matter," juried exhibition, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2020 Cary Gallery of Artists, "Small Treasures," juried exhibition, Cary, North Carolina
- 2019 Visual Art Exchange, "Member Showcase," juried exhibition, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2019 Bev's Fine Art, "Spotlight Show: Lynn Alker and Rosie Midyette," Raleigh, North Carolina

- 2019 Cary Gallery of Artists, "Small Treasures," juried exhibition, Cary, North Carolina
- 2019 311 Gallery, "Abstracts Matter," juried exhibition, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2018 Visual Arts Exchange, "En Masse," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2018 Artspace, "Fresh," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2018 Cary Gallery of Artists, "Small Treasures," juried exhibition, Cary, North Carolina
- 2018 Tipping Paint Gallery, "Red," juried exhibition, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2017 Coffee and Crepes, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2016 Litmus Gallery and Studios, "Anything Goes," juried exhibition, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2016 Contemporary Art Museum, "Camstellation," Raleigh, North Carolina

AWARDS

2nd Place, juried exhibition, *Three's a Crowd*, Cary Gallery of Artists. Cary, North Carolina. 2021

2nd Place, juried exhibition, *Snagged Again*, Cary Gallery of Artists. Raleigh, North Carolina. 2020

Honorable Mention, juried exhibition. 311 Gallery. Raleigh, North Carolina. 2018

PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

2021, March Issue, APERO Fine Art Publication catalogue, juried international exhibition, *Shift*.

2021, July Issue, APERO Fine Art Publication catalogue, juried international exhibition, *Parting Ways*.

2021, book cover, "The Parting of the Gods," author David A. Brondos, *Passage*.

2021, July, artist interview, Voyage Raleigh, print and online publication, "Daily Inspiration: Lynn Alker."

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Music Man, UNC Health, Rex Hospital, Holly Springs, North Carolina, permanent public art collection, 2021

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Creator and Curator, "Unchained," juried exhibition, Imurj, The Artists' Cafe Raleigh, North Carolina, 2018

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

North Carolina Museum of Art, Member

Visual Art Exchange, Member

Artspace, Member

Cullowhee Arts, Member

Art and Success, Member

Online portfolio available at: lynnalker.com