

Lynn Alker

lynnalker.com

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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 now 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, a granddaughter, 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

- 2026 Satellite Gallery, "Fragments to Form," a solo exhibition of new works by Lynn Alker, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2026 Carolina Fine Arts, "Lynn Alker," Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2020 Bev's Fine Art, Spotlight Series, "Lynn Alker," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2018 The Eye Institute, "Lynn Alker," Raleigh, North Carolina

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Raleigh Fine Arts Society, "NC Artists Exhibition 2026," juried exhibition, Meredith College, Johnson Hall, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2026 Guild of Charlotte Artists, "Transformation Exhibition," juried exhibition, The Mint Museum, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2026 Melange Gallery, "In Their Footsteps," juried exhibition, Asheville, North Carolina
- 2025 Durham Art Guild, "71st Annual Juried Exhibition," Durham, North Carolina
- 2025 Raleigh Fine Arts Society, "NC Artists Exhibition," juried exhibition, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2025 Maria V. Howard Arts Center, juried exhibition, Rocky Mount, North Carolina

- 2025 The Centerpiece Gallery, "Lumina Exhibition, Lynn Alker and Fabio Modica," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2025 Gallery 906, "North Carolina Artists Exhibition," juried exhibition, Wilmington, North Carolina
- 2025 Durham Art Guild, juried exhibition, Durham, North Carolina
- 2024 First Street Gallery, juried exhibition, New York, New York
- 2024 Prince Street Gallery, juried exhibition, New York, New York
- 2024 Golden Belt, "Community Art," juried exhibition, Durham, North Carolina
- 2023 The Centerpiece Gallery, "An evening of Art and Home," Ethan Allen, Cary, North Carolina
- 2023 The Centerpiece Gallery, "Continuum Exhibition, Lynn Alker and Joshua Smith," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2023 The Centerpiece Gallery, "17 Exhibition, Lynn Alker and represented females at The Centerpiece," Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2022 Cary Gallery of Artists, "Small Treasures," juried exhibition, Cary, North Carolina
- 2022 Artspace, "Fresh," juried exhibition, juror Jonell Logan, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2021 311 Gallery, "Abstracts Matter," juried exhibition, Raleigh, 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, special selection by juror Susan Tollefsen, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 2020 311 Gallery, "Abstracts Matter," juried exhibition, Raleigh, 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 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, 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. "Yellow #1" Maria V. Howard Arts Center, Rocky Mount, North Carolina. 2025

1st Place. Juried Exhibition. North Carolina Artists Exhibition. "Waiting Room," Gallery 906, Wilmington, North Carolina. 2025

1st Place. Juried exhibition. Galleryone962, online gallery. 2022

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

PUBLICATIONS

Artist feature and interview. *Art Radar*. November 2023 online publication.

Artist interview. *Bold Journey*. November 2023 online publication.

"Kaleidoscope Series," *Midtown Magazine*. Featured Artist, November/December 2022 issue.

Book cover. "Passage" artwork by Lynn Alker. *The Parting of the Gods* by David Brondos. 2021.

"Shift." *Apero Catalog*. Juried international exhibition, issue March 2021.

"Parting Ways." *Apero Catalog*. Juried international exhibition, issue July 2021.

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

"Music Man," UNC Health, Rex Hospital Holly Springs, permanent public art collection

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Designer for custom rugs, Art in Rug, Mission Viejo, California, 2025

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

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Guild of Charlotte Artists, Member

North Carolina Museum of Art, Member

Visual Art Exchange, Member

Artspace, Member

Durham Art Guild, Member

CAM Raleigh, Member