

It is the physical challenges of working *en plein air*, and trying to capture a feeling in a few hours, that forces me to think and feel “on the edge”. While it is sometimes necessary to work in the studio with my photographs and the comfort of heating and air conditioning—and lighting that never changes—there is nothing like being out *there*, in the moment. The pure physicality of it feeds the passion I have always had with the natural world. That connection to the paint surface is further enhanced by using a paint knife, rather than a brush, to apply the paint. Even when in the studio, I use these sensations to recreate the moment, rather than just the photograph. I will paint rapidly, capturing that sense of urgency I feel when working outdoors. That sense of urgency is fueled not only by changes in light and weather conditions, but by the locations I choose. I am drawn to areas that are in a state of flux, either man-threatened or nature-enveloped. This results in most of my works being done in a series, expressing change over time.

While painting outdoors I challenge myself to look beyond the obvious, the apparent. How can I express in visual form the texture of grasses, the colors there other than green, and how their color changes with the passage of hours, and seasons? How can I express the feel of movement, of light and shadow? How do I honor the moment?

I think about the impermanence of each moment as I explore what happens within a framework of time—one hour one foggy morning, or the changes that occur in one scene over a day, a month, a year. My series may take place over a period of one or more years, as I go back again and again to a location to see what has changed, and what has stayed the same. Tick tock, tick tock...

My works can be seen at the Crossroads Art Center, Frame of Mind, and the Visual Arts Studio in Richmond, Virginia, as well as Gallery 606 in Ashland, Virginia. I maintain a working studio at the Crossroads Art Center.

Select Recognitions:

- 2010 1st place, *Sanctuary*, “Artists Invade Maymont 2”, Crossroads Art Center
- 2009 2nd place, *Maymont Skyline*, “Artists Invade Maymont”, Crossroads Art Center
- 2008 2nd place, *Texas Star Hibiscus*, “My Father’s Garden”, curated by Jan Hodges, juror Dan Currier
- 2008 3rd place, *Knee Deep I*, Crossroads Art Center, juror Lee Baskerville
- 2007 2nd place in oils/acrylics, *Hungary Creek, study*, Maymont Flower/Garden Show, juror Shelley Betchel Shepherd
- 2006 3rd place for “body of work, oils/acrylics”, Maymont Flower and Garden Show, juror Durwood Dommissie
- 2006 1st place People’s Choice Award, *Ginkgo Leaves*, Maymont Flower/Garden Show
- 2006 2nd place People’s Choice Award, Favorite Artist, Maymont Flower/Garden Show