CARLA FORREST, CONTEMPORARY FINE ART PAINTER

Born 1951, Oneonta, New York
Lives and works in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA
www.carlaforrest.com

Contemporary artist Carla Forrest paints multi-layered, textural works inspired by direct observation of nature and life. Forrest attributes her love of expressionistic mark-making to her undergraduate study of sculpture and modernism. She is a first-generation Ukrainian American who is captivated by the color and value contrasts of contemporary expressionist works.



Honored as a Local Treasure by the Albuquerque Arts Business Association, Forrest's personal artistic mission integrates awareness of environmental conservation, community connectivity, and creativity. Forrest obtained her Bachelor of Arts in studio art from State University of New York, Master of Science in Teaching Visual Arts from Rochester Institute of Technology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Learning and Instructional Technologies from University of New Mexico.

I approach art as an attentive observer of the soul, seeking to illuminate the presence, wonder, and inherent dignity of nature and life. My work invites viewers to value both place and person within a space of spirit and heart, and to carry that sense of awareness into their own environments. In an increasingly digital world dominated by flattened imagery and diminished physicality, I strive to restore depth, form, and authentic passion.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

Museum Shows: Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum, Eula Mae Edwards Museum, Fuller Lodge Museum Art Center, Gutierrez Hubble House Museum, Millicent Rogers Museum, Museum of Friends

Juried Shows: Albuquerque Open Space Visitors' Center, American Salon of Fine Arts, ¡ENCANTADA!, MasterWorks of New Mexico, New Mexico Art League, New Mexico State Fair, Plein Air Artists of Colorado, Plein Air Painters of New Mexico, Plein Air Southwest, Taos Abstract Artists Collective

Gallery Shows: 3017 Gallery, 5G Gallery, Art Gallery 606, Carla Forrest Fine Art, Gallery with A Cause, Harwood Art Center, Hotel Andaluz Mezzanine Gallery, Johnsons of Madrid Galleries, Purple Sage Gallery, Randy Higbee Gallery, Stables Gallery, Sumner & Dene Gallery, The Gallery ABQ, Tortuga Gallery, Weyrich Gallery

Member Shows: Arizona Plein Air Painters, Outdoor Painters Society, Plein Air Painters of New Mexico, Rio Grande Art Association

AWARDS AND HONORS

Best of the City Top 5 Award: Best Visual Artist, Albuquerque the Magazine, 2024

Earth & Stone Award, Plein Air Painters of New Mexico, Jemez Paintout Show, Jemez Fine Art Gallery, 2023

Honorable Mention Staff Choice FAV15%, BoldBrush International Painting Competition, 2021

Plein Air Award, Inaugural International Art Exhibition, Anderson-Abruzzo International Balloon Museum, Albuquerque, 2020

First Place Small Works, ¡ENCANTADA! Juried Painting Exhibition, Expo Fine Art Gallery, Albuquerque, 2019

Holbein Award of Excellence, ¡ENCANTADA!, Juried Painting Exhibition, Expo Fine Art Gallery, Albuquerque, 2017

Autumn Winner, Art Cocoon Plein Air Contest, 2016

Local Treasures Honoree, Albuquerque Arts Business Association, Albuquerque, 2015

Honorable Mention, Plein Air Painters of New Mexico Art in the Parks Juried Show, Albuquerque, 2010

ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

Golden River of Dreams, Studio Prop, Silk Road Movie, LLC

Landscape, Studio Prop, Northern Entertainment Productions, LLC

Ode to Diebenkorn, Studio Prop, Netflix Productions, LLC

Join Professional Artists, Plein Air Land-Scapers for Outdoor Painting, Guest Appearance, KRQE TV-13, Albuquerque, February 5, 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Article: Feature, *Down to a fine art: More than a pretty picture*, Albuquerque The Magazine, May 2023

Article: Feature, *Ten artists based in New Mexico talk about their work*, Southwest Art, August-September 2021

Article: Feature, *Albuquerque's Guadalupe Chapel Draws the Faithful*, by Kate Nelson, New Mexico Magazine, February 2021

Article: Show Preview, *Plein Air Painters of New Mexico,* Southwest Art, October 2018

Article: Show Preview, *Carla Forrest & Lee McVey,* Southwest Art, July 2015

Article: Feature, *Building Layers in a Palette Knife Painting,* by Bob Bahr, Outdoor Painter, December 2013

Cover Image: *View from the Crest*, Bulletin of the State Bar of New Mexico, August 2020 issue (Vol. 59 No. 15)

Cover Image: *La Cueva,* Bulletin of the State Bar of New Mexico, July 2019 issue (Vol. 58, No. 15)

Cover Image: *Summer Solace*, Bulletin of the State Bar of New Mexico, July, 2018 issue (Vol. 57, No. 28)

Documentary: *Cross Country Camera: Imagery of Artists in Their Studios and Places of Inspiration*, By Stephen Kennedy, January 2024