



J a n e B o o t h

Spring Hill, KS

Artist Statement and Process

I see the process of painting as capturing the felt sense of life moving through space. Using color and mark, a snapshot is created of the open aperture through which one peers.

In order for the paintings to sincerely hold and transport this snapshot, the senses must be engaged, as well as emotions and memory, to use a felt sense of color and mark. Tapping into this sense, without a fixed narrative, creates unbound visual slices of life. The degrees of separation between inspiration and fulfillment are narrow. In these ways, yards and yards of raw canvas are filled, as color is poured and marks are made.

Foremost, the work is grounded in space. My studio and home are on a ridge overlooking a large open valley of flood plain, empty of houses and lights. Storms can be seen building 20 miles away, and the stars come down to the horizon line. It's in these broad spaces where I work and also am most comfortable. Both the literal as well as internal landscapes inform canvas size; canvases are sometimes monumentally scaled to reflect physical depth or breadth, while smaller canvases may describe more intimate landscapes.

The process is tactile, starting with a 30' roll of raw canvas on the ground, unrolled, pinned by rocks and then measured and torn to shape. Deep, rich stains of color are mixed-poured-pushed into the canvas while it's on the ground. The colors initially laid down become the atmosphere and environment in which the painting lives. Then the canvas is tacked to a wall and opaque mark making begins a free moving, playful intuitive process. Lastly is the quiet work of looking, studying, adjusting, movements stemming from deeply interior shifts, gentle and delicate, as a compass needle swings back and forth and finally slows, until the work comes into balance.

Blue Gallery

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

816.527.0823 BlueGalleryOnline.com

Jane Booth

Spring Hill, KS

Life Moving Through: Thoughts On The Paintings of Jane Booth

"In the woods, we return to reason and faith."

Ralph Waldo Emerson in his essay *Nature*, published anonymously in 1836

To spend time on Jane Booth's land is to spend time within the artist's most private property: that of her spirit. Each blade of grass, fluttering bird or shaft of light seems to have a concomitant and poetic habitation within her heart and intellect, translating into metaphors that express how life passes through us, altering us physically and emotionally; forcing us to transform.

The fact that the cycle of life imposes both splendor and mystery upon us is a theme that preoccupies the artist. In recent years, she has experienced change and insight. Her reaction has been to turn inward by looking outward. Hence, the clots and drips of paint in her work can reference rain and erosion simultaneously. A luminous passage of color might refer to sunlight and to insight. An area of heavy impasto could imply both sodden earth and saturating emotion. In Jane Booth's body of work, there is no boundary between what is within the self and what lies outside the self. In this way, her painting is inherently reverent, and filled with awe for universal processes that elude easy definition.

In Jane Booth's studio, each mark, however deliberate, is imbued with transience. She begins a painting by staining a large swath of canvas with pigment. Her choice of hue is intuitive, as are the flurry of spontaneous marks that follow. Next, in the artist's words, "...the fine parts: sitting and studying for long stretches, tweaking and adjusting balance and movement, forming personality. It's like layering intellect over feeling, or form over atmosphere or color field." The resulting paintings, created in thin layers of acrylic, create spacious environments in which elements from material reality peaceably coexist with fragments of emotion and recall. The works are sensitive, subtle and honest. Often, they are aesthetically pleasing but always they are beautiful and truthful. Courageously, the artist does not care what the final painting looks like, as long as it, "tells the truth." In looking at the finished works, I am again reminded of Ralph Waldo Emerson who wrote in his essay *Nature*, "The greatest homage we can pay to truth is to use it."

The survey of works that comprise this exhibition represent just a small percentage from the entirety of an enormous body of work. Jane Booth is an artist who is prolific. One may attribute her industry to the quest to speak an inner vision based in perception of emotion and passion for natural beauty. For ultimately, Jane Booth knows that there is no one truth to be told. Instead, what passes through us—the remembered fragment of conversation, the awareness of love, the originality of each horizon, leaf and breeze—inspires this artist to capture impermanence in pigment, and then to present the beauty of the imperfect image to the viewer as mutually shared treasure.

-- Tanya E. Hartman



Jane Booth

Spring Hill, KS

Biography

Jane Booth – (1957)

Jane Booth lives and works on a ranch overlooking broad, open vistas of native prairie, water, and sky, and uses this environment as a foundation for her work.

Schooled in ceramics, Booth pursued her love of sculpture and working with her hands by becoming a steel cutter and welder before she turned to fine art. This background continues to inform her paintings, which create a visceral sense of space and depth.

Often creating monumentally scaled, color saturated canvases, her process is tactile and physical. Booth begins with large swaths of raw canvas on the floor. Engaging all of her senses, she accesses a nonverbal internal landscape, translating into a felt sense of color and mark. Paint is poured and pushed by hand into the canvas; the degrees of separation between feeling and fulfillment are narrow.

Jane Booth is based in the Kansas City area. Her work is in 600+ private collections and numerous corporate collections.

Museum Collections:

Albrecht-Kemper Museum
Marianna Kistler Beach Museum

Selected Corporate Collections:

Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Cisco Systems Inc.
Emprise Bank
Fleishmann-Hillard, Intl. Communications
H&R Block World Headquarters
Hilton Hotels Corporation
Kansas University Heart Hospital
Polsinelli Inc.
National Indemnity Company
University Of Kansas Business School
University of Iowa Hospital

Solo And Featured Exhibitions

2018 Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2018 Madison Gallery, La Jolla, CA
2016 Anderson O'Brien Fine Art, Omaha, NE
2016 Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
2015 Anderson O'Brien Fine Art, Omaha, NE
2013 Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
2012 Albrecht-Kemper Museum, St. Joe, MO
2008 Kansas City Artists Coalition, Kansas City, MO
2003-2006 Hallar Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2004 State Capitol Building, Governor K. Sebelius, Topeka, KS

Select Group Exhibitions

2017 Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2017 Madison Gallery, La Jolla, CA
2018 Anderson O'Brien Fine Art, Omaha, NE
2017 Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
2016 Marianna Kistler Beach Museum
2016 Kansas City Artists Coalition, Kansas City, MO



Jane Booth

Spring Hill, KS

2016 Madison Gallery, La Jolla, CA
2015 Kansas City Collection, Kansas City, MO
2015 Madison Gallery, La Jolla, CA
2015 Sherry Leedy Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
2015 Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS
2014 Anderson O'Brien Fine Art, Omaha, NE
2013 Anderson O'Brien Fine Art, Omaha, NE
2012 Leedy Voulkos Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2011 Sherry Leedy Gallery Invitational, Kansas City, MO
2010 Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS
2007-09 Kansas Masters Exhibit, Manhattan, KS
2006 Strecker-Nelson Gallery, Manhattan, KS
2005 Juried, Douglass Freed, River Market Regional Exhibition, KC, MO
2002 The Jayne Gallery, Kansas City, MO

Education:

Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO, 1996-97
Philomene Bennett Atelier, Kansas City, MO 1996-2008
Balderson Inc., Welding And Steel Cutting, Wamego, KS 1979-1981
Bachelor of Arts, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, 1978
Peter Voulkos Workshops, Kansas City, MO 1995
Sorbonne, Paris, France, 1976

Recognition/Award:

River Market Regional Exhibition Award Winner 2017
Selected As One Of 8 Women "Visionaries" In Kc For The Arts, UMKC, 2012
Kansas Masters Invitational 2007, 2009
Inaugural Book 2007: Notable Kansas Artists
American Art Collector Book: 2006, 2007
River Market Regional Exhibition Award Winner 2005 Press/Publications Online