

ANNE STINE

Artist Statement

I am a versatile painter who works in encaustic mixed media, creating series of expressionistic and abstract landscapes inspired by my deep passion for the essence of nature – its geometry, patterns, colors and textures and its life-changing powers. Ever since childhood, nature has been my sanctuary where I catch my breath and meditate on the spiritual bond I feel when I'm totally immersed in its beauty. It is this deep personal connection and the childlike awe of our natural world, that I passionately wish to share with others to glorify our natural home, and thus bring attention to our codependent relationship we share with nature, and how it can heal the soul and bring solace to the heart. My abstract landscapes created in beeswax and damar resin (both natural materials) depict the fragility of our planet and relay the message that by healing the environment, we heal ourselves. It explores the powerful, fundamental need - mental, spiritual, and physical – that human beings share for the natural world, and how reconnecting with nature can give a broader sense of community and of life itself. The luminous encaustic paintings I create are meticulous in the use of color and textures, inviting the viewer to dig into the layers of material hidden in these surfaces as a personal exploration of feelings and memories and what it means to them and their own journey in life.

Encaustic allows me to express the intensity, fluidity, and varied textures found in nature more realistically than any other medium. My nontraditional combination of oils and encaustic painting techniques brings further variety to my pieces using custom-made colors and additional sculptural manipulations of the wax. With differing applications of wax and natural resin, I create textural layers in my paintings intended to bring them to life through a tactile as well as the visual experience. With each layer applied to the wood panel, I add a luminous and sensual quality to my work. Wielding a blowtorch and letting my creative intuition lead the way; I gouge, scrape, burn, and drip the wax into impressionistic images of landscapes, waterways, and other natural scenes. I sometimes add other elements such as handmade papers, sand, twigs and other natural found objects into my work. It is the unpredictable qualities of the encaustic process and of nature itself that really inspire me to push the limits of my medium and imagination.

I often hear viewers comment that they have a strong urge to reach out and touch my paintings. When this occurs, I know that I'm witness to a true connection between a person's spirit and the natural world through my artistic practice. It is because of this tangible element, that it is impossible to perceive the paintings' vivid colors, dramatic textures and hidden treasures layered within the wax solely viewing them on a screen or in print. I feel encaustic work demands a live experience and gain great satisfaction in educating viewers about this unique medium and its inherent beauty through my exhibitions and online presence.