

A World Worth Saving: Group Encaustic Exhibition

We are a group of emerging Northwest women encaustic artists, all exploring the medium with images that reinforce the importance of place and identity. Using encaustic medium (a combination of beeswax and resin), photography, mixed media, oil stick and cold wax, each artist brings a unique perspective to what the process can offer.

Brynn Blanchard, a native Northwesterner and the child of a photographer, makes art rooted in photography that celebrates the Northwest landscape. Using encaustic, she transforms chilly landscapes of the Salish Sea into dreamy images by adding light, color and dimension to landscapes ranging from Hood Canal to the San Juan Islands. Using wax, cold wax, oils and the stable wood panel underneath, she hopes to create a reminder of the natural beauty around us.

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Angela Kelly was born and raised in the Pacific Northwest. She is constantly inspired by the landscape that surrounds her. Whether hiking or camping with her husband and son, she captures these moments and transforms them into paintings that will last a lifetime. Although she has experimented with several mediums, she fell in love with encaustic painting. By combining oil paint, beeswax and resin, she is able to create a unique, lustrous quality to her paintings other mediums are unable to replicate.

Eliaichi Sadikiel Kimaro makes art to tell stories. She finds beauty in the rusty, weathered and worn, and loves telling layered stories that breathe in and out of space and time. As a queer, mixed-race, 1st generation American, Eliaichi uses her art to explore themes of cultural inheritance and legacy. She loves the stories that scars hold ~ and feels compelled to take those stories of survival, and turn them into something beautiful to behold.

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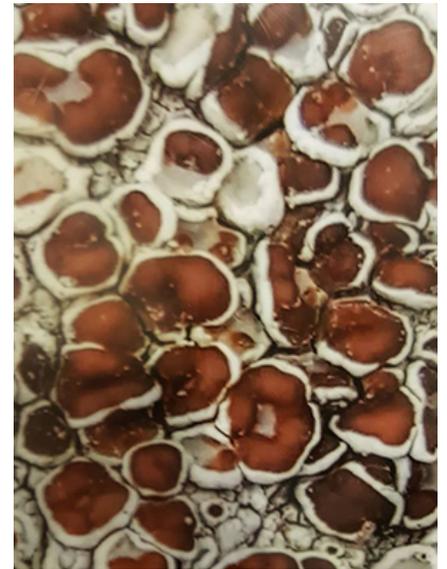
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Tara McDermott is a photographic and encaustic artist who uses the camera to record the sublime found in ordinary surroundings. To create these works, she stacks layers of film, then scans them together. She adds color, digitally, to increase the sense of atmosphere and applies encaustic to the surface, to add texture and mystery. The mundane becomes transformed into an ethereal dreamscape. Tara graduated with a BFA in photography from the University of Washington and exhibits at the Columbia City Gallery in South Seattle.

Sean Phelan started working with encaustic painting about three years ago and it has transformed her life. As a practicing lawyer, she spends the majority of her days dwelling in the left brain, steeped in logic and linear analysis. In the realm of her chosen profession, there is a premium on controlling information and events as much as possible, and there is absolutely no room for "mistakes." When she is painting with wax and is able to let go of "control" and allow for the unexpected, surprising things happen. This process has profoundly affected the way she shows up in the world and emboldened her to take risks she would have otherwise avoided. Painting with wax has introduced a sense of freedom that has spilled over into other aspects of her life. It has also inspired her to view the world with a newfound sense of curiosity, appreciation and attentiveness.

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Ellen Zrimsek has been creating encaustic/mixed media art pieces for the past five years. Her works focus primarily on natural subjects inspired by travels and explorations into wild places. She finds the encaustic process both simple and complex, fascinating and limitless. Working with wax and heat allows mystery to co-create the finished product.

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