

ENID SMITH BECKER

Each one of us brings our memories and desires to all we see. In a time when our lands are threatened there is a pressing imperative to find a common vocabulary, to create a reminder of the solace often found in nature. Edmund Burke spoke about the sublime experience and its power to transform the self. I am interested in a contemporary version of the sublime through the creation of a fluid visual experience; one which mirrors our interactions with time and place.

My paintings are semi-abstracted landscapes and natural images. Oceans, fields, mountains and rivers, botanicals: these images serve as a bridge between us and the natural world. Within each painting I create multiple views of the subject in order to keep the eye moving over the picture plane, the geometric meshing with the organic, humans responding to nature in a constantly changing dialogue. These frames are also highly contemporary, as this is how we see the world around us on a daily basis: through the lenses of time, space and scale as we frame our experience through the screen of a mobile device. The paintings are not the simple depiction of a place but a reminder of our longing for nature and the concomitant complexities of our relationship with the natural world.

I grew up near Seattle and am often inspired by northwest colors and textures. The layering of images, my observation and interpretation of what I see is for me, a metaphorical rebuilding of the land. Painted in acrylic on canvas, some of the works are heavily textured in places, some are smoother. During the process of painting each work develops its own voice yet all are a call to stop and observe, to be moved by the power and beauty of nature.

Education

1990-2022 National Board Certified art teacher, Bellevue School District

2019-2022 Instructor for art methods class (Masters in Teaching) Seattle University

2022 worked as a juror to select artists for Bellevue Bellwether exhibition

2017 Consultant for Art and Physics project at the UW

Studied art at the University of Washington, BA and MA in French Language and Literature

Awards and Publications

2021 Third Place in Art Room Gallery, Landscape show

2020 Best in Show Grey cube Gallery, Landscape show

2019 Published in book issue no. 3 Papeachu Press, "Beginnings and Endings".

2018 Published in Three Elements Review, issue no. 17

2015 Washington Art Educator's Association- Secondary Art Educator of the Year award

2003 Outstanding Middle School Educator- Bellevue Youth Link

2002 Article "Human Bodies and Nature Entwine" The Queen Anne News by Maggie Larrick

1994 Washington State Krista McAuliffe Award for educational excellence

Exhibitions

2025 Seattle Art Museum, "Wander" Solo show

2024 Arts West, "Of Time and Space" Solo show

2024 Seattle Art Museum, "Reveal" SAM Gallery

2023 Seattle Art Fair - Seattle Art Museum Booth, via SAM Gallery, Featured artist

2023 Seattle Art Museum, "Reedify" two person show

2022 Seattle Art Museum, "Renewal" three person show

2022 Seattle Art Museum, "Evergreen" three person show

2022 Carillon Point, invitational, "landscapes of Mystery" solo show

2022 Centennial Gallery, Kent WA, invitational two person juried show

2022 Seattle Chamber Music Society, solo show

2021 Seattle Art Museum Sales Gallery
2021 Elizabeth Jones Art Center, Portland OR
2020 bG Gallery, Juried show "Representational Abstract", Santa Monica, CA
2020 Seattle Art Museum, "Ground Keepers", Show cancelled due to Covid.
2020 Impact Hub, Solo show, cancelled due to covid
2019 Seattle Art Museum "Journeys", Seattle, WA
2017 Seattle Art Museum "Darks and Lights", Seattle, WA
2017 Maryhill Museum, Juried show
2017 Pacific Regent, Bellevue, WA, Juried show
2016 Seattle Art Museum Sales Gallery Introductory show, Seattle WA
2015 artEAST, "Call of the Clouds" Issaquah, WA Juried show
2015 The Art Institute of Seattle, teacher show
2014 Johnston Architects, Seattle, WA, solo show
2014 3231 Creatives Gallery, Everett, WA, solo show
2014 The Art Institute of Seattle, teacher show
2013 3231 Creatives Gallery, "Arts and Letters" Exhibit, Everett, WA
2013 artEAST, "Being Human", Issaquah, WA Juried show
2012 University House, Seattle, WA Juried show
2012 Honore Bakery, Seattle, WA solo show
2012 Soul Ease Gallery, Kirkland, WA, solo show
2011 Art East Gallery, "Art of the Written Word", Issaquah, WA
2009 Phinney Ridge Art walk, Seattle, WA
2008 Coffee Animals, Seattle, WA Solo show
2008 Autumn's Gallery, "Human Nature" Edmonds, WA, Solo show
2006 June, The Sanctuary Gallery, Redmond, WA, solo show
2005 June, Soul Ease, Kirkland, WA, solo show
2004 June, The Fountainhead Gallery, "New Mythologies" Seattle, WA, solo show
2004 David Maritz Gallery, Camano Island, WA, juried show
2003 August, On the Edge Gallery, La Conner, WA, solo show
2003 February, University Unitarian, Seattle, WA, solo show
2002 June, The Fountainhead Gallery, "Allusions", Seattle, WA, solo show
2002 The Phinney Center Gallery, Seattle, solo show
2001, Robert Canega Gallery, Eugene, OR, juried show
2001 October, Mary Vitold Gallery, "Vessels" Seattle, WA
2001 March, The Phinney Center Gallery, Seattle, WA, 2 person show
2000 Henry Art Gallery, "The Bash Invitational", Seattle, WA
1994 Queen Anne Coffee House, Seattle, WA
1994 Art Maven's Gallery, Solo show, Seattle, WA
1993 We "B" Art Gallery, Solo show
1992 We "B" Art Gallery, "Sticks and Bones" Seattle, WA, 2 person show
1992 Meany Hall, Two-person show

Collections

Numerous private collections



SAM Gallery
SEATTLE ART MUSEUM
1300 FIRST AVE SEATTLE, WA 98101