

Emily Suárez Artist Statement

Artwork title: Golden Barrel Sea

Bio:

Emily Suárez is a landscape and nature oil painter who grew up in Virginia and is now working out of her home studio in Pasadena, CA. The beautiful deserts of the southwest and their many unique and exotic plants inspire her to create detailed landscape paintings. Emily has recently shown her work in numerous galleries and juried exhibitions throughout the state of California, including at Sanchez Art Center, TAG Gallery, Palos Verdes Art Center, Gallery 825, and the Joshua Tree National Park Art Exposition at the 29 Palms Art Gallery. Her painting "Golden Barrel Sea" won the Chantal Giddens Memorial Award for Best Painting at the Pasadena Society of Artist's 95th Annual Juried Exhibition. Her work was featured in the March 2021 issue of *CandyFloss Magazine*. Emily is the illustrator and author of her forthcoming book *The Healing Journal: Guided Prompts and Inspiration for Life with Illness*, which will debut in January 2022. She holds a BA from the College of William & Mary and an MA from New York University.

Artist Statement:

I'm a believer in the healing power of artmaking, and I view my creative process as a form of meditation. Working primarily in oils, I paint desert landscapes and plants. I draw my inspiration from frequent trips to Joshua Tree national Park, as well as locally at the Huntington Library's desert garden. I take lots of photographs at these locations, which I bring back to my studio to use as reference when painting. While I work loosely from my photographs, I aim to go beyond the photo in my paintings. I create an idealized and enhanced version of the image, portraying nature as pure and sacred.

My painting *Golden Barrel Sea* depicts a scene from my favorite part of the Huntington's desert garden. The endless waves of golden barrel cacti evoke a sense of other-worldly wonder. The process of painting the repetitive patterns of the cactus spines was like painting the layers of a mandala—I find balance and peace in each tiny stroke of these patterns. Through my work, I have developed a stronger connection to and appreciation of the natural world. I strive for my paintings to serve as a reminder to the viewer of Earth's beauty and sanctity.