

# Megan Lynch Artist Statement

Megan Lynch is a native Californian currently residing in Humboldt County. She has been making art since childhood; scribbling on walls and doodling in the margins of notebooks. Having an influential art teacher in high school resulted in many traditional media explorations and a decision to make art her career. After relocating to Nevada in 2013, she received a degree in graphic communications from Western Nevada college. She rediscovered her love for mixed media art during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic and from there she began filling sketchbooks with gouache and colored pencil landscapes, launched her own art business, and filmed her creative process.

I'm interested in the feeling of creating textured and loose landscapes, still-lives, and portraits. I create because the process is more satisfying than the outcome; I'm heavy-handed on markers because I like the inconsistent scribbling. I smear thick globs of gouache around to create the boundaries of the piece. I scratch colored pencils into paint to hear the story of a previous layer. Pens are scraped into paper until the ink has practically vanished and the nub is frayed. Exhausting materials remind me that I have lived through a painting.

My art is inspired by viewing my surroundings through color, shape, value and texture. I want the viewer to see the markings I have made with the different mediums implemented because the tool itself is the art. Simplifying landscapes and still-lives down to their elements and principles is what motivates my creative process.

*Lake Tahoe* was originally made in my sketchbook using gouache, colored pencils, Mildliner highlighters, and a black gel pen. For the *Made in California* exhibit I wanted to paint a California landscape that is close to my heart; I spent my middle school days living there and while residing in Carson City, Nevada, Tahoe was just a 20-minute drive away. I often return to the gem of the Sierra's during summer. I wanted to capture a sense of nostalgia with more sepia muted tones, but still maintain bright contrasting colors like dusty pink highlights and bright blue water.