

Shannon Evans Artist Statement

Abstraction allows me, as an artist, to interpret the world around me and place myself within the work. Using oil paint, I explore expressive, gestural mark making with references to the natural landscape. My paintings are influenced by daily walks I take; I use the imagery from my memories to imbue the work with layers of nostalgic feeling and whispers of nature. By breaking down and abstracting these references to the natural landscape, the brushwork comes to the forefront of the painting. The juxtaposition and layering of advancing and receding positive and negative expressive brushwork form an abstracted landscape: a sense of place, a moment in time. By building up these multiple layers, the work transforms into a mosaic record of my life: feelings, memories, emotions.

The paintings become, in its purest form, an extension of myself. I can look at a painting and remember all of the stages it went through. The evocative, bold and sometimes frantic character of these marks creates a captivating sense of movement that draws one into the piece. Color and paint are used expressively to create a multitude of hues that layer and build to create spatial relationships. These colors are an intuitive combination of chromic neutrals and highly saturated hues. The ardent character of both the brushwork and color gives the viewer a glimpse into my emotional state at the time of the painting's creation. It's a release; it's a true catharsis