

Stevie Love Artist Statement

Joy at the Center

Six months ago, the Bobcat Fire roared through our rural neighborhood on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains taking with it 25 years of artwork that I had archived in a large metal storage container on our property. Our home was undamaged but the artwork was destroyed, and the native vegetation on the hillside 360 degrees around the house was completely burned up and blackened. It was/is life changing.

After the fire, I felt unwilling to create more art objects and I couldn't bring myself to work in the studio. Six months later, I am seeing the fire as a sacred conflagration, turning me toward creating art as a healing practice for myself and for the viewer. Joyful color has been my inspiration for years, but now it is manifesting with strong intention. With all the negativity in the world, my work reminds people that the essence of life is joy and it is our sacred duty to manifest a smile from the heart outward to the world, to the earth, to our fellow humans.