

CAT TESLA

artist statement

My work includes both ethereal landscapes and abstract designs. I am intrigued by texture, color, and the juxtaposition of shapes. My interest may have started in childhood when my mother taught me to sew clothes for my dolls and (eventually) myself. I can still spend hours in a textile store though I rarely sew anymore.

The subjects I choose to paint are organic, either originating from Mother Nature, or inspired by her. I begin my mornings with meditation and then to my studio to paint. Landscapes/organic images emerge after applying a dozen or so thin layers of glazes over gesso. One goal with my work is to transport the viewer into a realm of calm and respite, or perhaps to recall a memory of a favorite place or loved one. My visual vocabulary seeks to communicate the indescribable serenity and healing experienced from nature. Centuries ago the Persian poet and mystic, Rumi, put it simply: *"Observe the wonders as they occur around you. Don't claim them. Feel the artistry moving through and be silent."*

Many people often wonder "where" the scene is from in my ethereal landscape paintings. I believe they originate from my subconscious, imprinted by imagery from years of hiking, exploring, and sitting at the water's edge in prayer.

I enjoy experimenting with different materials and combining them in unexpected ways, turning my art studio into my personal laboratory. One of the hallmarks of my "Outside of the Box" Series of paintings is to integrate clay tiles into their design. At the beginning of each year at a local ceramic studio, I make several hundred small clay tiles that I call "cookies". They live together in my studio and eventually find a home on a painting. Once I have painted the textural domains, it is easy for me to see where the cookies belong.

Paintings are often born from the proverbial blank canvas or small thumbnail sketches. My preference is to work without an exact plan and see what happens. I think this is the best way for the truth to reveal itself.

Everyone has gifts from the Creator. I believe it is the duty of each to share our gifts with the planet. My paintings are a brave look inward – revealing what lies beneath both literally and spiritually. Yogi's call it the "divine flame" – the spark that motivates you in life. In Buddha's words, "Look within, thou art the Buddha", while Jesus taught us that "The kingdom of heaven is within you". For me, painting is the most life affirming thing to do.

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CAT TESLA

Born: 1963, St. Louis, Missouri

Education:

Associate's Degree in Graphic Design, The Creative Circus (formerly the Southeastern Center for the Arts), Atlanta, GA, 1994

M.S. in Genetic Counseling, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, 1988

B.S. in Biology, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1986

Selected Exhibitions:

- Quinlan Arts Center, Solo Show, August-October, 2012, Gainesville, GA
- September 2011, Art & Jazz Featured Artist, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Fundraiser, Atlanta, GA
- August 2011, "The Artists of Tula", Gemena Gallery of Christ Church Presbyterian, Atlanta, GA
- May 2011, Marietta/Cobb Museum of Art 2011 Art & Design Showhouse, Marietta, GA
- April 2011, Art in Bloom Gala & Art Market, Johns Creek Arts Center, Johns Creek, GA
- March 2011, Quinlan Arts Center, 33rd Annual Gala & Art Auction, Gainesville, GA
- October 2010, Featured Artist, T. Clifton Art, Memphis, TN
- September 2010, ArtScapes Show, Invitational, Knoxville Museum of Art, Knoxville, TN
- July-August, 2010, Summer Group Show, Chicago Art Source, Chicago, IL
- April-June, 2010 Spring Show, Perlow-Stevens Gallery, Columbia, MO
- 6-09 Cat Tesla & Mary Burrows, Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis, TN
- 2009 Atlanta Symphony Decorators' Showhouse, Atlanta, GA
- 3-09 Featured Artist, ArtXtravaganza Show, Webb School, Knoxville, TN
- 1-09, ARTifacts group show, Perry Nicole Fine Art, Memphis, TN
- 2-08, ATLart[08], Featured Artist, Lagerquist Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 5-07, Atlanta ARTHouse [07], Atlanta, GA
- 5-07, Group Show, Lagerquist Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 4-06, "Cat Tesla: New Works", Solo Show, Canyon Road Contemporary Art, Santa Fe, NM
- 2-06 Featured Artist, Saks 5th Avenue Artist Market & Trinity Artist Market, Atlanta, GA
- 12-05 "Annual Pin-Up Show", Museum of Contemporary Art, group show, Atlanta, GA
- 11-05 to 1-06, "Two Visions/Two Palettes", Cat Tesla & Joel Barr, Urban ArtWorks, Alpharetta, GA
- 8-05 to 10-05, "Scapes", group show, Angled Art Gallery, Paducah, KY
- 7-04 "Outside of the Box", solo show, Eastern Short Art Center Gallery, Fairhope, AL
- 02/03/04/05 Ann Jacob Gallery, Atlanta, GA & Highlands, NC
- 97/98/99 Craftworx, Alpharetta, GA
- 99/00/01/02 "Genesis Show", Roswell Cultural Arts Ctr., Roswell, GA
- 98/99/00 Heaven Blue Rose Gallery, Roswell, GA
- 99/00/01 Matilda's Enchanted Cottage, Alpharetta, GA
- 98/99/00 Primitive Eye Gallery, Decatur, GA
- 01/02 Vermilion Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 99 William W. Fincher, Jr. & Eunice L. Fincher Visual Arts Ctr., Waleska, GA

Selected Outdoor Art Festivals:

Art on the Square, Belleville, IL
Bayou City Arts Festival, Houston, TX
Cain Park Arts Festival, Cleveland Heights, OH
Great Gulfcoast Arts Festival, Pensacola, FL
Kentuck Festival of the Arts, Tuscaloosa, AL
Laumeier Contemporary Art Fair, St. Louis, MO
Magic City Art Connection, Birmingham, AL
Naples National Arts Festival, Naples, FL
Penrod Arts Festival, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN
Plaza Art Fair, Kansas City, MO
Port Clinton Art Festival, Chicago, IL
Rittenhouse Square Fine Art Show, Philadelphia, PA
St. James Court Fine Art Show, Louisville, KY
Saint Louis Art Festival, St. Louis, MO
Winter Park Sidewalk Arts Festival, Winter Park, FL

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Representation:

Art House Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia
Gift, Gourmet, & Interiors in Knoxville, Tennessee
Chicago Art Source, Chicago, Illinois
Stellers Gallery, Ponte Vedra, Florida
T. Clifton Art, Memphis, Tennessee
The Studio Gallery, Grayton Beach, Florida

Collections:

Alabama Power Company, Birmingham, AL
Christine & Neil Dietsch, Tuscaloosa, AL
Comanche County Medical Center, Comanche, TX
Condell Medical Center, Libertyville, IL
FedEx Family House, Memphis, TN
Foley & Mansfield, Attorneys at Law, St. Louis, MO
Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Fort Belvoir, VA
Georgian Bank, Atlanta, GA
Hill-Rom, Batesville, IN
Kaiser Hospital, San Diego, CA
Kaiser Permanente, Mission Viejo Medical Office Building, Mission Viejo, CA
Kingwood Medical Center, Kingwood, TX
KRG Capital, Denver, CO
Long Island Jewish Hospital, New York, NY
Methodist West Houston Hospital, Houston, TX
Norman Regional Hospital, Norman, Oklahoma
Northern Trust Bank, Chicago, IL
Northwest Community Hospital, Chicago, IL
Nueterra Healthcare, Kansas City, MO
Oklahoma Heart Hospital, Oklahoma City, OK
Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Primary Care Medical Specialists, Des Plaines, IL
Saint David's North Austin Medical Center, Austin, TX
Saint John's Mercy Hospital, St. Louis, MO
Scripps Del Mar, Plastic Surgery & Reconstruction, San Diego, CA
Scripps Clinic, Dermatology Suite, San Diego, CA
Skip & Nancy Elsas, Coconut Grove, FL
Cheryl & Joseph Risko, Heathrow, FL
Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, Dallas, TX
The BVA Group, Houston, TX
The Daniel Group, Kennesaw, GA
The Settings Development Companies, Atlanta, GA
University of Texas, Tyler, TX
Lee & Jeanne Walls, Birmingham, AL
Willowbrook Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX

Press:

Simply Buckhead Magazine, November/December 2011

Genetics in Medicine, August 2011, Cover, "Morning Mist"

Simply Buckhead, July/August 2011 Issue, page 29
(pictured on left is Cat Tesla's "In the Distance", 48"x48" mixed media on canvas landscape)

Columbia Daily Tribune, Columbia, Missouri, Sunday edition, April 11, 2010

Columbia Business Times, April 30, 2010: The Art of Nature

Kansas City REVIEW: The Art of Nature, April 15, 2010

American Art Collector, October 2009, "Evolution"

Genetics in Medicine, April 2009, Cover, "Arrival I"

StudioVisit Magazine, April 2009, "Outside of the Box"

American Art Collector, October 2008, "Outside of the Box "

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Press (continued):

The Emory Report, February 11, 2008

Southern Living Magazine, Georgia Living Section, February 2008

American Art Collector, October 2007, "Elements"

Art Business News, August 2007, "Fluid in Motion", pp. 31-33.

Genetics In Medicine, September 2005, Cover, "Family Tree"

The Santa Fe Opera Magazine, 2005, "The Clearing"

Genetics in Medicine, May 2005, Cover, "Discovery"

Art Galleries & Artists of the South, Summer 2004

The Roswell Neighbor, September 2002, "Cabernet"

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, August 2001, "Flower Box II"

Genetics in Medicine, May/June 2001, Cover, "Jagged Edge"

Museum & Gallery Guide, Atlanta, May/June 2001, "Unity"

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, January 2000, "Grape Divine"

Professional Associations & Teaching:

2005-present National Association of Independent Artists, Member

2008-present Artists-4-Alzheimers, Volunteer Workshop Teacher for patients with Alzheimers,
William Bremen Jewish Home, Atlanta, GA