

Melissa Ryan

Melissa Ryan Art

MelissaRyanArt.com

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Melissa Ryan Artist's Statement

As an abstract expressionist digital painter, my artwork comes from a desire to visually express a state of grace at times found in the abstract imagination, other times in a glimpse of the tangible, but most often in the two intertwined. My curiosity about the human spirit is explored through my work. What can visually free the mind to hope? Does the wisdom of the soul recognize the visual opportunity to pause and escape? Can I reach the spirit of another simply through a captured moment of color and light?

Being a female artist, most of my paintings incorporate tender, sensual, expressive brush-strokes that intimately come together to express free-flowing emotions inspired by my inner exploration of bringing feelings to the tangible.

Melissa Ryan Artist's Bio

Melissa Ryan is an American Abstract Expressionist Digital Painter, residing most of her life in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. Her 2D work often blurs the lines between graphics and painting. Melissa's passion for art began as a child as she studied under her grandmother, fine-artist Mary Hoyer Locke of Great Falls, MT. She was born Melissa Marie Walker in 1971 in Montana and moved to Arkansas as a young child.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts degree in three years with honors from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in 1992, Melissa returned to her hometown and served her community as a freelance graphic designer for 25 years while raising two children with her husband, Jeff. Melissa's graphic design work has appeared throughout her community as well as across the country with book cover designs cataloged in the Library of Congress.

Arriving in the fine art world is a culmination of Melissa's passion for creativity combined with her digital skills. Her decision to focus on her own body of work was spurred on by a life changing event. In 2019, she underwent a craniotomy to remove a fist-sized Meningioma (brain tumor) that pinched off the optic nerve in her left eye and stole most of the sight in her eye, resulting in the realization that "sight is precious and life is short." She is an emerging artist as she continues her pursuit of visual expression.

Melissa Ryan Artist's CV

Education

Personal Study under the late Mary Hoyer Locke

Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 1989-1992

Online Classes under Sudeshna Sengupta presented by the Georgia O'Keefe Museum

Artist INC Express – Arkansas Statewide (virtual) January, 2024

Achievements

Solo Exhibition for April, 2024, Southern Missouri Arts Connection Gallery

Arkansas Artist Registry of the Arkansas Arts Council

Multiple Graphic Design Awards for clientele over 25 years