

Larry Safley

Artist Statement

We change with our experience of life over time, and that changes how we see, what we see, and even why we look.

I make works that depend on change. They are two and sometimes three dimensional renderings of visual abstractions. Sometimes they are internal constructions from experience and sometimes they are external deconstructions from direct observation. They are always intended as suggestions, populated with patterns and details and colors and texture that become something or nothing at all according to the viewer's current perspective. They represent an opportunity to reanimate our mental maps and see the world differently. They are not moments captured but moments to be explored... embracing the inevitable process of seeing and forgetting and seeing again.

I generally don't use brushes, preferring the potentially chaotic surprises of indirect and oblique application of paint. I begin with patterns, consider color schemes, ponder textural notions, and finally settle on the scale I believe will accommodate them. I throw paint, and splatter it, and spread it around with various objects until there is balance. I'm looking for balance in color, scale, texture, randomness, and order. My goal is to create a visual space, a dynamic landscape that you and I can settle in and populate with our own thoughts. The process creates an environment where randomness invites order and how we order it changes with us. It is the nature of cloudscapes and waterscapes and landscapes which inspire me, how their shapes and patterns scale into the geometry of humanscapes both real and imagined.

Bio

Larry Safley was born in Eugene, Oregon in 1963 and raised in the Rogue Valley of Southern Oregon. He has traveled extensively throughout the USA, by foot, bike, thumb, auto, bus, plane, and train. In early 2000 Larry was given a set of acrylic paints. This offering and a timely art history course sealed his interest in the visual arts. A few college courses covering printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture steered him toward the process of making. That exposure to the visual world of art has led Larry to continued self directed exploration of the myriad processes of making. Larry began showing his paintings in 2001 and it remains his primary form of making. Volunteering in the arts is his primary form of doing. Currently his doing and making take place in Kennewick WA.

Current doings in arts and arts advocacy:

- Artula Institute for Arts & Environmental Education(aka: Washed Ashore), Board of Directors
- Allied Arts Association member (Richland, WA)

Past doings:

- Umpqua Valley Arts Association volunteer: Chair, Summer Arts Festival 2013 – 2017

- Umpqua Valley Arts Association volunteer: Gallery committee 2016 - 2021
- Community of Roseburg Oregon Arts Integration steering committee 2014 - 2018
- Co founder Umpqua Makers Guild 2014
- Co-organizer Medford (OR) Third Friday Artwalk 2006-2010

Exhibitions

- 2023 Collective Visions Gallery, Bremerton WA: 2023 16th Annual CVG Show, Juror -Carla O'Connor
- 2022 Combine Art Collective, Walla Walla WA: 1st annual Juried Art Show, Juror -Bonnie Zahn Griffith
- 2021 Allied Arts Association, Richland WA: 2021 Annual Juried Show, Juror -Nicole Pietrantonio
- 2021 -2016 Umpqua Valley Arts Association, Roseburg OR: member shows
- 2020 Oregon Cultural Trust: Oregon License Plate design process, invited 2 of 3 rounds
- 2017 Cascadia Coffee Art Space: Individual show
- 2016 DIVA Gallery, Drain OR: 2 person show
- 2016 Umpqua Valley Arts Association, Roseburg OR: "Earth Wind Fire" exhibit, Juror -Jon Leach
- 2014 Fisher's Fine Arts , Roseburg OR: "The same only different" two person show
- 2013-2012 Gallery 7, Canyonville OR "Mixed Messages; a group abstract art exhibit"
- 2012 Organic Natural Café, Medford OR: individual show
- 2012 Concetti Fine Arts, Ashland. OR: "12 x 12" group show
- 2012 Guistina Gallery Corvallis OR: Oregon State University Annual Cultural Arts Show, Juror -Kevin Clark
- 2011-2009 Concetti Fine Arts: gallery representation
- 2010 Gallery at Yesterday's Blossoms, Medford OR: individual show
- 2009-2006 Concetti Fine Arts: gallery representation
- 2009-2005 Gallery at Yesterday's Blossoms: gallery representation
- 2003-2001 OregonAMSO Gallery, Grants Pass OR: artist collective
- 2003-2002 Ecclectix Gallery, Jacksonville OR: gallery representation
- 2002 Glass Forge Gallery and Studio, Grants Pass OR: individual show