



**Betsy Lohrer Hall** makes process-oriented works on paper and installations. The art is handmade, with evidence of time and presence revealed through the accumulation of marks, layers, and simple materials. While her work is usually abstract, it alludes to various concepts through metaphor and process. Themes include nature and the environment; the power of the collective; and socio-political circumstances. Her art is also informed by years of meditation practice and the study of Eastern philosophies.

Her approach with the paper works is a hybrid of drawing, painting, collage, and printmaking. The results are a combination of careful marks and randomness that range from palm-sized to nearly 45 feet across. The large-scale works are often made from hundreds of pieces of cast-off paper, joined with thread. She uses art making as a way to explore impermanence and the simultaneous desires to prevent and accept it.

When making installations, she considers the context. Her project for the NOMAD Art Show (2021), sponsored by the Torrance Art Museum, is a good example of this. For *Shelter* she reflected upon the challenges of 2020 and 2021, and the humble tenacity required to keep going. She considered the site (raw, concrete) and the fact that the event would be crowded with art and people. The installation was reminiscent of the limited quarters she found herself in during the pandemic. She also wanted the space to function as a refuge—a place to sit and look out the window, to enjoy the trees and afternoon light. When viewers sat down, they discovered the words “you are breathing” on the glass—an unexpected invitation to contemplate the depth of this simple statement. For meditators, following the breath is a way to gain calm and focus. Considering recent events, though, we can no longer think of breath as a “given.” Covid steals people’s breath. George Floyd was robbed of his breath. The smoke from wildfires makes breathing dangerous. If we are breathing, this is a gift.

Betsy Lohrer Hall's approach is seeded with the idea that small, humble gestures can affect change. Collaboration and audience interactions are increasingly important. As an extension of her art practice, Hall opened Flux Art Space in 2018. See Instagram: [@fluxartspace](https://www.instagram.com/fluxartspace). It is a project space founded on the idea that art-making and direct experiences can open new doors to understanding. Through activities and events, Flux connects emerging and mid-career artists with each other and the local and Los Angeles communities - and beyond. Flux encourages cross-cultural and cross-generational dialogue and celebrates creative expression as an integral part of life.

Hall earned an MFA in drawing and painting from California State University, Fullerton, and a BA in studio art, with a concentration in painting, from Colorado College. She studied in London and Florence and New York City. She has exhibited work in the U.S., Thailand, and Taiwan. Hall was awarded a solo project at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), an artist residency at the Huntington Beach Art Center, and a Professional Artist Fellowship grant from the Arts Council of Long Beach (2006). She and Flux Art Space were featured in the Summer/Fall '21 issue of *Slow + Sustain Magazine*: [Create the Presence](#). Works from her 2011 solo exhibition at El Camino College are featured in *The Spaces in Between* catalog and a group exhibition at the Barrett Art Gallery in Santa Monica, *Southern California Abstraction Now* is represented here: [S.C.A.N. catalog](#).

She has taught studio art, art history, and writing at several colleges in southern California, and is currently a faculty member in the Department of Visual Arts at CSU Fullerton.