



Why not open up? – *Sam Gilliam*

Stones, bones, clouds – experience gives me shapes. -*Georgia O'Keefe*

Sometimes things that go wrong also go right. – *excerpted from 'Clarice Bean Spells Trouble' by Lauren Child*

**STATEMENT** In a world that all too often insists on inevitability and separateness, Boyts Yoder's paintings are playful refusals of these false assurances and fixedness. Using a visual lexicon of symbols she has generated over time, each work articulates how space constantly extends and collapses all around us and how joyfully form can evade our need for categorization.

What emerges are welcoming and engaging spaces for imaginative play, a celebratory take on color and material, and an invitation to open up. In this context, Boyts Yoder sees the paintings as hopeful, optimistic acts, and the mode of abstraction as a generous state of being.

**BIO** Sarah Boyts Yoder is a painter based in Charlottesville, VA. She received an MFA in painting from James Madison University in 2006. Her work has been featured in numerous publications, exhibitions, and corporate and private collections throughout the United States and abroad, including the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art.

Sarah has been the recipient of a professional fellowship in painting from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and has been a fellow multiple times at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and 100W Corsicana in Corsicana, TX.