

Phyllis Gorsen

www.phyllisgorsen.com

Artist Statement

My collage paintings explore emotion and mood as they emerge from the natural world. The environment, and the mysteries hidden within its elements, is at the heart of my work. Whether portraying human interaction in wild landscapes or the flourishing of indigenous life, I am drawn to the unseen private worlds that often go unnoticed. My inspiration is rooted in the mystical enchantment found in both real-life encounters with the wilderness and imagined intimate passages. I invite viewers to step into the spaces in between: where stories linger, where nature whispers, and where the secrets between the trees might be heard.

In my work, I take creative liberties with color and composition to evoke mood and enhance the sense of magic inherent in the living landscape. I am less interested in literal representation than in expressing a feeling, one that may shift between wonder, solitude, curiosity, and reverence. These choices help guide the emotional tone of each piece, and are meant to induce both a familiar and otherworldly experience.

The creation of each piece is a meticulous process. I begin with a painted rendering, sometimes fabricated, sometimes based on photographs, and build from there. I layer various materials: paint, charcoal, painted paper and canvas, and handmade papers gathered from around the world. These mixed mediums, applied in multiple layers, create a multi-dimensional surface imbued with mystery and surprise, encouraging the viewer to linger, look closer, and be drawn into these magical realms.

Bio

Phyllis Gorsen, born in Philadelphia, PA, received her MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in 2014. Her work has been exhibited nationally, including galleries and museums in New York, Philadelphia, and California. Her exhibitions include a solo public art exhibition at the New York Port Authority and a two-person show at James Oliver Gallery and solo show at Boston Street Gallery in Philadelphia. She has also curated several exhibitions in the Philadelphia region. Over the last couple of years, Gorsen has been featured in many publications including: The Jealous Curator, The Philadelphia Inquirer, ArtBlog and Create! Magazine. She has also been featured on The Inspired Painter and Arts to Hearts Project podcasts. Many of her paintings are in collections throughout the United States. Gorsen currently works out of her studio in Philadelphia.