

My love of the natural world is deeply rooted in my upbringing where I was given a gift of respect and appreciation towards my natural surroundings. As a young child growing up in rural Pennsylvania, I had the fortune to live on a property that had open fields, magical woods, and in part, a pre-revolutionary home in which to play and explore. Although I have studied art all my life, it wasn't until I became an adult that I had a strong interest in making it. It was a bit serendipitous that I fell into a job teaching art to elementary children which ultimately played a large role in my own art-making education. Another key inspiration was when the family barn, an imposing three story Pennsylvania fieldstone bank barn, built in 1884, burned to the ground within minutes of being struck by lightning. This barn was where we all learned the value of healthy competition (there were two badminton courts along with adjacent spectator rooms for each), the value of the arts (my grandmother maintained an active ceramic studio on the ground floor in which we were always welcome to join in the fun), and the value of curiosity (there were so many mysterious places to play and plunder). These values were instilled not just in my generation but in my father's as well as he too grew up there. After the barn burned, I suddenly felt an intense need to paint it and the land around it as an homage to my heritage. Thus began my love for landscape painting.

I was born in 1961 in southeastern Pennsylvania and lived there my entire childhood. In 1986, I received a BA in Art History from Montana State University. That same year I married and moved south to Hattiesburg, Mississippi where we have since lived and raised our two children. From 2004-2013 I taught elementary art at the school our children attended. I am an active member of the Women's Art Collective, in Hattiesburg, and the Mississippi Art Colony, a state-wide organization. My husband and I now divide our time between Mississippi and Montana.