

Jess Beyler was born in Urbana Illinois. The light and the empty space of that landscape was her first formative visual experience and it has remained an important component of her work ever since.

She studied art at Schiller European University in Strasbourg, France, earned a BFA in painting at the Maine College of Art, and did her graduate work at the University of Iowa where she received both an MA and an MFA in painting and drawing. Because her studio practice is as physical as it is visual, she also studied with the Ram Island Dance Co. of Portland ME and earned a 2nd degree black belt from the Japan Karate Association in Chicago. Both disciplines inform her work.

Ms Beyler has shown her paintings in galleries across the country, including Chicago, New York, Portland ME, Denver CO, the Kansas City area, and Champaign-Urbana IL, where she currently lives. She has been awarded 3 residency grants—one based in North Adams MA in 1998 and adjudicated by Walther Hopps, and two at the Vermont Studio Center in 2009 & 2014. She received a Here and Now grant from the City of Urbana in 2015, which was characterized by a city council member as one of the best grant proposals they ever received, and her work was chosen for the CU Mass Transit Art program in 2013 & 2017.

Ms Beyler currently has two major works in public venues: *The Skypath*, a multi-panel painting 4 feet by 40 feet long about water, sky and time, is currently installed at the Prairieland Mediation Center in Champaign, IL and *100 Famous Views of the Universe*, which hangs in the lobby of the M2 Building in downtown Champaign.

In 2019 Ms Beyler submitted a proposal for a third work scaled for public spaces, (84" x 168") to be included in *Art of the Cosmos*, which was to be a symposium and exhibition for scientists and artists held in Pasadena, and celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hubble Telescope. Her proposal was accepted and the 10 panel painting was completed, but the exhibition, which was supposed to open on April 24, 2020, was cancelled on the eve of its installation, due to Covid-19. Ms Beyler is seeking an alternate venue for this work.

In addition her on-going studio practice, Ms Beyler currently works with developmentally disabled adults, helping them to find their self-expression via the arts.