

# Eleanor Spiess-Ferris

## ARTIST STATEMENT

I grew up on a small farm in northern New Mexico. In the untamed orchard, behind the house and over the irrigation ditch, I found a place of quiet and solitude. This was a world where I could play undisturbed by the world. It was among the overgrown plum trees and the elderly apple trees that I first discovered the mysteries of nature, life, and death.

As an adult I return to the orchard in my work.

The depiction of nature has become a metaphor for my personal experience and my relationship to the world.

## RESUME

Born: Las Vegas, New Mexico

Living in Chicago, Illinois

Current teaching position: Evanston Art Center, Evanston, Illinois

## EDUCATION:

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago

The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, BFA

## REPRESENTATION:

Hofheimer Gallery, Chicago, IL

## SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

2008 Artists Special Assistance Grant

2001 Artists in Residence, Anchor Graphics, Chicago, Illinois

2000 Illinois Arts Council Artists Fellowship Grant

1991 Arts Midwest Fellowship Grant

1989 Illinois Arts Council artists Fellowship Grant

1984 The Vielehr Award, 80th Exhibition by artists of Chicago and Vicinity, Art Institute of Chicago

## PROJECTED EXHIBITIONS (One person)

- 2020 *Birds and Beasts*, Hofheimer Gallery Cicago  
*Daphne's Sister*, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, Illinois

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2019 *Daphne's Sister*, Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois  
**(Current Exhibit)**
- 2017 *This Lady is Not For Burning*, Outstanding Midwest Artist Series, South Shore Arts, Munster, Indiana
- 2016 *A Collection of Magical Realism*, Komechak Art Gallery, Benedictine University, Lisle, Illinois  
*Inevitable Anyway*, printworks Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 2014 *See No Evil*, Angela Meleca Gallery, Columbus, Ohio
- 2012 Spring, Printworks Gallery Chicago
- 2011 Spring, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD  
Spring, Purdue University (with Michael Ferris Jr.)
- 2010 Fall, Elgin Community College  
Fall, Carthage College, Kenosha, Wisconsin  
Winter, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, Indiana  
(with Michael Ferris Jr.)
- 2009 *The Sorrows of Swans*, Large oils, Chicago Cultural Center, catalog  
*The Sorrows of Swans*, Paper works in gouache, Print-works Gallery, Chicago - catalog  
*The Sorrows of Swans*, A survey, Elmhurst College, Elmhurst, Illinois, catalog
- 2006 *Water (and otherwise)*, Aron Packer Gallery, Chicago, Illinois  
*The Magpie Chronicles*, Robert T. Wright Community Gallery of Art, College of Lake County, catalog
- 2002 *Regeneration*, Zaks Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 1992 *Eleanor Spiess-Ferris: An Artists Journey*, Charles Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, Racine, Wisconsin
- 1984 *New Works*, van Stratten Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
- 1978 Freeport Art Museum, Freeport, Illinois

## GROUP SHOWS

- 2019 *Things That Go Bump in the Night*, South Shore Arts, Munster, Indiana

- 2010 *Animal Farm*, Gallery Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2007 *Flights of Fancy*, Printworks Gallery, Chicago, Invitational  
*While All the Tribes of Birds Sang*, Illinois state Museum, Chicago Gallery  
 James R. Thompson Center  
*While All the Tribes of Birds Sang*, Illinois State Museum, Lockport Gallery,  
 Lockport, Illinois
- 2003 *Not Just Another Pretty Face*, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois
- 2002 *Ferris: A Family of Artists*, Evanston Art Center, Evanston, Illinois
- 1999 *Illinois Women Artists: The New Millennium*, Illinois Art Gallery,  
 Illinois State Museum, Springfield, Illinois, TRAVELING EXHIBITION
- 1988 *That is What Its All About!*, International exhibition  
 Juried by Lucy Lippard, Eractor Square Gallery, New Haven, CT
- 1985 *Drawings: 81st Exhibition of Artists of Chicago and Vicinity*,  
 Art Institute of Chicago
- 1977 *Figurative Painters of he Midwest*, Madison Art Center, Madison, Wisconsin

#### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

- Drawing: Space, Form and Expression* by Esynr Enstice and Melody Peters,  
 2nd Edition, Text book published by Prentice-Hall, Inc.  
 Copy written in 1996
- Exploring Imaginary Subjects* by Stanley Marcus, Watercolor 88, Published  
 by American Artist Magazine, Copy Written in 1988
- Women and Mythmakers*, by e. Lauter, Indiana University Press,  
 Copy written in 1984

#### SELECTED LISTINGS

- Whose Who in American Art  
 The Chicago Art Review

#### SELECTED ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

- 2002 *A Similar Artistic Muse...* by Lisa Stein, *Chicago Tribune*, November 22
- 1991 *Eleanor Spiess-Ferris* by James Yood, *Art Forum*, Sept, 1991  
*Eleanor Spiess-Ferris*, Garrett Holg, *Art News*, October, 1991

#### SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Block Museum at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois  
 Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Kalamazoo, Michigan  
 Illinois State Museum Permanent Collection, Springfield, Illinois

Portland Museum of Fine Art, Portland, Oregon  
Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Art, Racine, Wisconsin  
State of Illinois, James R. Thompson Center, Chicago, Illinois  
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana  
DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois