

Valerie Fowler | Artist Statement

My artworks portray settings and scenes illustrating states of nature on earth. I examine my concern for our fragile home as I explore the mark we humans make on it. My landscapes are grounded in local spaces, most real, some from memory, all reimagined. I investigate qualities of beauty in nature and also the alarm I feel as a human living in a time of impending climate catastrophe.

Fowler | Bio

Valerie Fowler grew up in Houston. Her father was noted Houston sculptor, Bob Fowler (1931-2010). After graduating from U.T. (1985, with a B.A. in Art) she made Austin her home and has been actively involved in art making and art exhibition for over 30 years. Nature is her muse. Her complex and intricate oil paintings and drawings describe a natural world of extreme beauty and vigor while also conveying nature's sensitive vulnerability. Her past work includes painting murals for Whole Foods Market in Austin, Chicago and Ann Arbor, illustration and layout work for The Texas Observer, illustrations for CD jackets for local musicians, including a fully illustrated, 64 page book that accompanies the CD for "Ivy and the Wicker Suitcase", a musical project, written, recorded and produced by her husband Brian Beattie. The "Ivy" project toured the East and West coasts and she and Beattie produced the full stage production for Austin's Stateside at the Paramount Theater in 2014. In 2016, Fowler held Nature and Other Stories at Austin's Dougherty Arts Center, a solo exhibit and mid career retrospective, with artworks spanning 2 decades. Fowler has exhibited widely in Austin and throughout Texas and is collected internationally. She maintains a rigorous exhibition schedule producing a solo gallery show at least once yearly.

In 2018 she was chosen by the Texas Book Festival as the official Festival artist. Also, in 2018, she contracted with Pomegranate Communications licensing her artwork images for a 2020 calendar, puzzle and art cards.

In 2021 she and Beattie completed work on another musical and "Crankie" project: El Camino Real de los Tejas Crankie Suite. A crankie is an illustration on scrolls, cranked along to musical accompaniment. In this case, a 100 foot long illustration, on paper scrolls which tells stories, dipping back and forth in time, about Texas's historic El Camino Real. These crankie performances have been performed throughout Austin, and on locations along the Camino itself. Half of all proceeds of Austin performances are donated to the Onion Creek Metropolitan Park Archeological Project in coordination with Austin's El Camino Real Association.

Currently, she is nearing completion of works for a solo exhibition for Cloud Tree Gallery in Austin, scheduled to open Sept 22, 2023.

Both she and her husband maintain studios adjacent to their South Austin home. She paints, draws or gardens daily.