

Imagine paint placed onto canvas. The typical image that first appears in the mind is a brush pulling paint across canvas or paper. But instead, imagine paint placed in a different way. Scraped across the surface with a knife. Mixed and made liquid, pourable. Mixed into sheets that can be picked up and shaped. Piped through bags originally meant for cake decorating. Over bendable wire to create 3D objects that can be adjusted at will. This is what I imagine when I think of painting.

My background in art began a lot like anyone else's did. I first learned traditional painting from my grandfather, who was an oil painter focused on recreating houses, landscapes, and animal portraits. I can clearly remember sitting at a child's easel, next to his full sized one that now sits in my own studio, learning the basics of creating shapes and mixing colors onto a canvas. Along with learning from my grandfather, I had a strong connection to the earth and nature through my grandmother, who I planted gardens with during the summer, and my father, who worked at the local park nearby my childhood home. Although my own artistic practices focus more on acrylic paints, texture, nature, and Abstract Expression, with these influences it is easy to see that my artistic path began early.

The reason I bring these memories and imagery up is that association is another facet of my artistic practice. My methods of painting create highly textured abstracts or 3D paintings based off of flowers, primarily, and I create these works in an effort to spark a feeling, a memory. Everyone has a response to seeing flowers, everybody has a favorite, and creating a painting of that flower creates a connection. Another association, blue is water and fire is red, and creating paintings that spark the memory of water or fire is an intentional aspect of my work. To do this, I use the senses such as vision and sound to reinforce the association. I believe that art is meant to create a connection and I'm interested in exploring how this connection happens.

My art, though, is also about exploring the beauty of nature. Sunshine through leaves and bright water flowing through rocks, these are the colors that inspire me. Twisting kudzu vines on the sides of buildings and dandelions pushing up through cracks in the sidewalk make me want to capture and recreate them. The warmth of the sun and the chill of a breeze, nature is at the heart of my work.