

NANCY PÁCE

Biography

A contemporary artist, Nancy Páce defines her unique painting style as a type of 'New Age Impressionism.' By utilizing a depth of field approach, and infusing that with what she perceives as a 'hyperawareness' of color, Nancy dramatically captures California light and landscape.

Originally from Connecticut, Nancy chose to attend the University of New Haven, majoring in Commercial Art. It was during that time when she discovered her love for the fine art of oil and acrylic painting, and soon afterwards that she decided to continue her education at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, in Boston Massachusetts, where she completed a four year diploma program designed exclusively for studio artists. Her greatest influence, as she recalls, came from spending many afternoons in the school's museum, studying the masterworks of late 19th Century painters; Van Gogh and Renoir being two of her favorites.

Inspired by the divine nature of those experiences, Nancy has been driven towards her own spiritual pursuits, and her paintings have evolved into what she describes as being a kind of 'visual meditation.' The goal, she says, is for her work to take people out of their hurried states of mind, and draw them into a quieter realm, one that instills in them a posture of joy and peace. In addition, Nancy has chosen to sign her paintings with her maiden name, simply because her father had always told her that, in Italian, Pace is pronounced, patche, which means peace. She then chose to put an accent on the a in her signature to evoke its Italian pronunciation and to symbolize a gesture of peace.

Nancy moved to California shortly after graduating from art school and has since made the Laguna Beach area her home. Her intense passion for the California surroundings is most evident in her vivid portrayals of the flower fields at Carlsbad, as well as those in Lompoc and the desert at Anza Borrego State Park. The artist also enjoys depicting the rural countryside along California's scenic highways, where wildflowers bloom in the spring. Currently, Nancy is living a quiet and creative life at home in Laguna Hills California, with her husband, Bob, and their pet cockatiel, Norman.

ARTIST RESUMÉ

Born

August 29, 1956, in Waterbury, Connecticut

Education

School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, 1977-1981

University of New Haven, West Haven, Connecticut, 1974-1976

Solo Exhibitions

2004 'Textural Fusion', Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, Laguna Beach, CA

2000 Inn at Laguna, Laguna Beach, CA

1997 'Fields of Hue', Galerie 224, Laguna Beach, CA

Selected Group Exhibitions

1999 Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, Laguna Beach, CA
1998 Marion Meyer Contemporary Art, Laguna Beach, CA
1996 Galerie 224, Laguna Beach, CA
1995 Art Vivant, Traveling Group Exhibition, Kobe, Tokyo, and Yokahama, Japan
1995 Galerie 224, Laguna Beach, CA
1994 Seaside Gallery, Dana Point, CA
1993 Art & Film Studio, Costa Mesa, CA

Selected Juried Exhibitions

2007 Blossom - Art of Flowers, Houston Museum of Natural Science, Houston, TX
2007 Art a Fair Festival, Laguna Beach, CA
2006 Art a Fair Festival, Laguna Beach, CA
2005 Alice Baum Art Splash, Dana Point Coastal Arts, Dana Point, CA
2005 Art That's Small at City Hall, City of Laguna Beach Arts Commission
2001 La Quinta Spring Arts Festival, La Quinta, CA
1997 'Echoes and Visions', Laguna Niguel Community Events Committee, Laguna Niguel, CA
1995 Newport Beach City Arts Commission, Newport Beach, CA
1994 Niguel Art Association, annual spring juried competition, Dana Point, CA
1993 Niguel Art Association, annual winter competition, Dana Point, CA

Awards and Honors

2005 City Hall Choice Award, Painting, Art That's Small at City Hall, City of Laguna Beach Arts Commission
1995 Third Prize, Painting, Newport Beach City Arts Commission, Annual Spring Juried Competition
1994 Best of Show, Painting, Niguel Art Association, Annual Spring Juried Competition 1993 First Prize, Painting, Niguel Art Association, Annual Winter Juried Competition

Publications

Art Business News, August, 2004
Laguna Beach Coastline News, May, 2004
Coast Magazine, Orange County, June, 1999
Laguna Beach Coastline News, August, 1997



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Nancy Páche (pronounced, patche)

Color is my greatest source of inspiration, and what greater intensity of color exists than in a field of flowers? To me, there's nothing more exhilarating than witnessing mother nature's splendor firsthand, so I take countless numbers of photographs, which later serve as reference for my work. I then paint within my studio, progressively working on as many as ten or twenty pieces at a time.

The process for me is always invigorating, and usually takes me to an altered state of awareness in which I'm virtually lifted outside myself in what I do, so words are hard to come by, I'd rather let the work speak for itself. However, I can say that what I'm driven towards mostly is creating a more dynamic visual experience than what is typically seen in a two-dimensional artwork. Not only have I wanted the plants and flowers in my landscape paintings to look like vegetation, I've wanted them to feel like vegetation. In other words, I've wanted to breathe life into them. So I've developed an innovative technique in using plastic freezer bags as a tool for applying thick layers of paint; an idea which came to me as a result of my own childhood experience in helping my mother decorate wedding cakes.

This unique paint process has enabled me to instill a three-dimensional quality to a two-dimensional work of art; the intent being for the imagery to project a pulsating energy vibration in which a viewer is held captive, if only for a moment, as rhythms of color appear to dance and pop from the canvas. The framing design is part of that intention as well, so every background color and texture surrounding an image is created simultaneously with each painting to further enhance this mesmerizing effect.

It's my belief that one should not only stand consciously and reflectively before a work of art, but that one should walk away from it knowing that they've just transcended time and space while delving into a depth of pure emotion. So my hope is that those who view my paintings will connect with the spiritual energy that's behind them, calling to mind that same higher form of consciousness within themselves.