



Alison Paul

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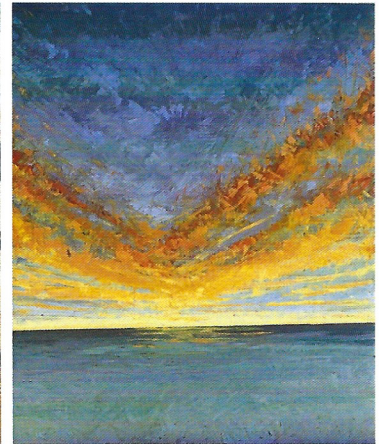
SDVoyager

**Today
we'd
like
to
introduce
you
to
Alison
Paul**

Alison, please kick things off for us by telling us about yourself and your journey so far.

Daily, I create and experiment in a wondrous space, with open ceilings and open doors. It's a sensory jungle with much laughter, music blasting, airy and sunlit, a huge central work table covered with supplies, and chickens walking in and out. I strive to get creative daily in this chaotic, happy place. As Chuck Close famously said, "Inspiration is for amateurs – the rest of us show up and get to work." Thankfully my paintings are in high demand, and I happily accept commissions, so there is usually much to do.

My paintings are based on a foundation of travel and opportunities, continuous exploration, and sheer curiosity. Our lives are paths; we rise every morning to look at the sky, gaze at the horizon, and skip down the road each day. Our adventures, accomplishments, and events are merely footsteps; our mistakes and failures are only dance steps backward or sideways. As human animals, we constantly take stock of our surroundings to reset our equilibrium. The horizons on my canvases are the focal points for that purpose.





Can you give our readers some background on your art?

I paint large contemporary landscapes and seascapes in oil, wax, charcoal, pigment, and graphite on canvas. Studying constantly: the weather, topography, light, sky, color, and texture – the nuance and intrigue of the great outdoors. Painting exclusively with a palette knife on doubly primed, custom-built canvases, this research is then translated to the surface of the painting. Using a palette knife feels like drawing to me as I etch, scrape, and apply the oil/wax mixture. At this point in my career, this is done almost without thinking, and the ‘thought to canvas’ process is a fluent translation.

It is generally accepted that photographs cannot capture the light, energy or subtleties of an artwork, and this holds especially true of my paintings. Only the human eye can clearly note the nuances of color, energetic textures, and feeling of place. Changing light plays across the texture, revealing layers and unexpected color combinations, while a graphite layer adds perspective and dimension. Each painting is abstracted yet representational, with its own quiet personality and restorative quality, and each has its own story, inspiration, or memories.

What responsibility, if any, do you think artists have to use their art to help alleviate problems faced by others? Has your art been affected by issues you’ve concerned about?

On a day to day basis there seem to be many challenges facing artists.

One – A big challenge and concern is gender inequality for major shows, locations, and collections. Balance is important to achieve while working as many hours as possible and being dedicated, creative, and intelligent about my time.

Two – Another is creating chunks of time, dedicated studio space, and finding great suppliers and vendors. This all takes patience, a solid support system, some basic organization, but is doable.

Three – People don’t find you, you have to get your work in front of people. Applying for gallery representation, group and solo shows, juried exhibitions, maintaining and updating website and social media is tremendously time-consuming. It is a somewhat hidden part of the business of art but is a very important aspect of getting your work seen, appreciated, and collected.

Four – Creating art that has an unusual, healthful aspect to it is rewarding. Telling the story behind each painting and expressing verbally what you express visually in paint is a continuing challenge. Yet I am continually grateful that collectors and admirers feel a strong understanding and connection to my work. I am so lucky.

What’s the best way for someone to check out your work and provide support?

I have been exhibited in numerous museums (The Triton Museum of Art, Oceanside Museum of Art, and San Diego Museum of Art), many solo shows, and am avidly acquired for public and private collections worldwide. Thrilled to be well represented at numerous galleries throughout California, which are listed on my website. There are solo and group shows throughout the year. For updates and announcements, email me to sign up for my newsletter, or follow along on Instagram.