

MELISSA BISBEE ORME

BIO

A native of Michigan, Melissa Bisbee Orme graduated from the School of Architecture and Design at The University of Michigan where she majored in painting and earned a BS in Design. She has worked as an art teacher, a printmaker, and a painter in oil, watercolor and acrylic.

In the 1980's, Melissa began painting exclusively with watercolor and in the last three years has enthusiastically transitioned to acrylic. Presently she is painting with acrylic on paper and stretched canvas.

She exhibits widely in group and juried shows in the tri-state area. Her work can be found in private collections throughout the United States and England.

Melissa also studied at the New York Botanical Garden in the 1990's where she earned a certificate in Landscape Design and started her own design firm. She has designed numerous gardens for private residences in the northeast. Her garden illustrations have appeared in *House Beautiful* and *Better Homes & Gardens* magazines. Her own garden was featured in *Connecticut Cottages & Gardens* magazine in June of 2007 and in the book *Private Gardens of Connecticut* by Jane Garmey ~ Photographs by John M. Hall, 2010.

She refers to garden design as "designing and painting with plants - another medium for the painter."

STATEMENT

*" From my perspective, painting is a projection of the spirit and my inner visual language.*

*My objective is to create compositions that reflect this philosophy through the evolution of abstract form and color. I use acrylic paint to implement this exploration because of its infinite range of possibilities. Because it is quick-drying, it provides me with the immediacy I desire, as well as fluidity, opacity and transparency.*

*Although my work seems to reflect a spontaneous process, it is never free from the underlying elements of design. These elements are the essential tools which guide me in the creation and manipulation of a successful image.*

*This process of painting is ever changing and a constant challenge to me. It pushes me toward places of unknown and exciting territory. It is here that I discover new concepts and techniques, adding depth and meaning to my work. This is the essence of my journey and my passion."*