

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 and watercolor. Presently she is painting with acrylic on paper and stretched canvas.

In the last five years, she has participated in 30 group and three solo shows in the Northeast. Her work can be found in private collections throughout the United States and England.

Melissa 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 and her garden illustrations have appeared in *House Beautiful* and *Better Homes & Gardens*. Her own garden was featured in *Connecticut Cottages & Gardens* and *Private Gardens of Connecticut* by Jane Garmey.

In conjunction with her painting schedule, she is presently working on a design project in the Napa Valley for a client who has long been a collector of her prints and paintings. She refers to garden design as "designing and painting with plants - another medium for the painter."

STATEMENT

*Painting is a projection of the spirit and of my inner visual language. I create compositions that reflect this philosophy through the evolution of abstract form and color. Within these abstractions are often the subconscious influences of my love of nature and the landscape. Perhaps working with living breathing things translates into living breathing art? 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. I use acrylic paint because of its infinite range of possibilities: it is quick-drying, it provides the immediacy I desire, as well as fluidity, opacity and transparency. The process of painting is ever changing and a constant challenge to me. It pushes me toward unknown and exciting territory. It is here that I discover new concepts, techniques, and added depth and meaning. This is the essence of my journey and my passion.*