

Ann Street Bailey

Artist Statement

I have been making art in one form or another most of my life. As a child, I loved to work with my hands and color intrigued me. One of my favorite pastimes was making color designs with special wooden blocks or painting at my small easel. But I also spent much time outside with my father learning about our nature and the night sky, which held a particular fascination for me.

Since 2003 I have had the opportunity to focus my energy on painting, working daily to communicate my interpretation of nature, the sky, and unseen concepts. My work has gradually evolved from plein air landscape painting to the abstract. I work primarily with acrylics and produce bold, contemporary paintings. Lately my work, still inspired by nature, has been expanded by study of physics and theories regarding parallel worlds, string and M Theories and the universe as a symphonic cosmos. I still love the night sky.

Einstein was not only a great physicist but also a violinist. Coincidentally, perhaps as it seems, there has long been a connection between physics and the arts through music. Now, my objective is to bring forth, through art, visual concepts of current theories by physicists including string theory and the possibility that the cosmos exists as part of a string symphony. Many of my paintings appropriately share musical titles. I often paint to music; that usually being jazz.

Some physicists theorize that our universe is only one of many. So, it might appear that reality is only a partial picture of what in truth is reality. While I am not a realist one would certainly question at this point what realism exactly is? And, as I paint I am hopeful that the viewer will consider how important is protecting our planet/ living environment for the next tens of years as the universe expands and we move toward a colder place. Will humans then inhabit a planet from which the next steps can be taken to ensure continuance of intelligent life? Or will we have destroyed our beautiful planet long before that challenge?

As I work I usually use an intuitive and spontaneous free form approach, allowing the painting to create its own life. I delight in experimenting and often incorporate texture with sand, acrylic beads, and fabric. My surfaces include canvas or board and, on occasion, paper. I often gesso surfaces and use either acrylic or oil paints. Walnut oil is my choice for the medium when using oil.

I credit my schooling, relationships with many fine artists, and my past work as an interior designer as integral parts of my artistic development. I continue to study painting techniques, composition, and art history. I attend artist workshops and continually research the subject matter. But, I believe nothing helps an artist grow more than daily hands on painting. While I often paint out of doors I also now have the advantage of working in my studio with a collective of other committed artists. The uplifting and positive surroundings make it the perfect place for creativity.

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