## Artist: Melissa Lea Biography

Melissa Lea Simmons (1967 NH) is a contemporary fine art painter and lifetime resident of New Hampshire, where she resides with her spouse of nearly 30 years.

Melissa Lea led a fulfilling professional career supporting local businesses and education where she used her creativity in both the workplace and the classroom. At home, her creativity and love of color inspired home renovation and design projects, commissions of furniture painting, and canvas paintings for loved ones.

She began painting professionally in 2021. She registered her art business with NH in 2022 and entered her art into 3 online international juried competitions that first year, receiving awards with each one.

Today Melissa creatively combines her love of business, education, and art into her new career. She paints expressive colorful abstractions, oftentimes florals and landscapes, with acrylic paint and other media, on canvas and paper.

Her paintings have been exhibited in Manchester NH art galleries, See Saw Art, and Mosaic Art Collective (both Feb 2023) and are currently represented by SEH Studios & Art Gallery of Dover NH.

She developed a website to highlight and offer her art worldwide, she writes in blogs, and she is the founder of #NHArtShowWeek, a social media campaign to promote the art industry in NH, organizing a free to artists and accessible to all, state-wide art show.



Learn more about Melissa Lea and her NH art business, Marie Florence Designs, through her website (<u>www.MarieFlorenceDesigns.com</u>) and social media (@mleaflorence).