**Artist Statement
Melissa Lea Simmons, 1967**

Melissa Lea is an American (NH, USA) fine artist recognized for her colorful and expressive abstract paintings.

Intuition leads her artistic process, as she manipulates layers of mixed media, color, line and form to create space, motion, and emotion.

Although she paints from imagination without reference, her paintings often have identifiable objects, such as floral bouquets, figures, or landscapes; and relatable subjects we share of joy, love, life, family, whimsy, and the freedom to create.

"I'm an abstract thinker and an expressive painter.
I don't paint flowers; I paint flower shapes."

Moments of self-reflection, experiences of life, and love for neighbor are conveyed through Melissa Lea’s use of strokes, imagery, media, and substrate. She intends to cause pause, curiosity, connection, and levity of spirit.

Learn more about Melissa Lea, and her NH art business, Marie Florence Designs, through my website ([www.MarieFlorenceDesigns.com](http://www.marieflorencedesigns.com))
and social media (@mleaflorence).