

Artist Statement

Melissa Lea Simmons

Melissa Lea is an American artist recognized for her expressive abstract paintings.

Intuition leads her artistic decisions, as she manipulates layers of mixed media, color, line, and shape to create space, motion, and sentiment.

Quite often Melissa's original paintings have identifiable representations, such as floral bouquets, figures, or landscapes, and relatable subjects of joy, love, life, family, whimsy, and common bonds of humanity.

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

She conveys moments of self-reflection, experiences of life, and love for neighbor, through her use of strokes, imagery, media, and substrate. She intends to cause pause, curiosity, connection, and levity of spirit.



Biography

Melissa Lea Simmons

Melissa Lea Simmons (b.1967) is a lifelong resident of New Hampshire, USA. She attended public schools in Manchester, NH, and earned her Bachelor of Science in Business Education with NH State Certification from Southern NH University in 2005.

After a 25-year career serving her community through businesses and education, she took a 15-year hiatus to heal from a debilitating chronic disease. During that time of recovery, she learned how to cook healthy meals, grow and preserve food, and enjoy a simpler life.

Melissa Lea and her husband, Rick (m.1999) built their 'forever home' in 2019, in the same town that they've lived in for over 30 years, Barrington NH. In January 2021, while painting their basement walls, Melissa decided she wanted to keep painting and continued painting giant colorful murals around the basement. By April, she knew that she was ready to return to the workforce and chose Professional Artist as her new career.

As a self-taught fine artist, Melissa Lea has created a body of work and has exhibited her art in galleries locally, regionally, and internationally online. She has received awards, has her work published, and is a member of several professional art associations. Her joyful energy and zest for the goodness of life are evident in all that she creates.