

ARTIST STATEMENT + BIOGRAPHY

Melissa Lea Simmons

Expressionist painter | Newfield, Maine



"I share love, sometimes with paint."

Artist Statement

I am an artist who paints intuitively from imagination. My expressive works build on color relationships, mark-making, and mixed media to create luminosity, movement, and emotional resonance. Flowers, figures, landscapes, and interiors may emerge, but I am less interested in describing what they look like than in expressing what they feel like to me.

I paint from care, optimism, and a belief that beauty can restore and connect us. I want each painting to draw the viewer into color, light, and layered discovery, offering something new with each return.

Biography

Melissa Lea Simmons is an expressionist painter working from her studio in Newfield, Maine. Before establishing her professional art practice, she built and led a pet care business, launched New Hampshire's first pet expo, and founded the New Hampshire Petsitters Association. She later earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Southern New Hampshire University, graduating with honors and receiving New Hampshire state certification to teach middle school students.

After a long period of disability and healing redirected her path, Simmons began painting professionally in 2021. Since then, she has developed an active studio practice and has exhibited her art throughout New England. Her professional activities include juried exhibitions, awards, publications, speaking engagements, community initiatives, and a 2025-2026 artist residency at The Art Center in Dover, New Hampshire.

marieflorence.designs.com