



ELAINE COOMBS | Artist Statement

Since 2005, I have created contemporary landscape paintings that strive to capture the essence of nature, as it feels to me at this time, namely, sacred, stoic, and tranquil. I seek to conjure a particularly idyllic moment, and this moment need not be a named place, for one can look at it and see many places in it. I want the viewer to have a sense of connection with something more — my depiction indeed hints at a peaceful force beyond us that is benevolent. To wander through a forest is truly to be present in that remarkable goodness.

Painting with palette knives rather than brushes, dots rather than strokes, lets me play with pattern, repetition and color tone in such a way that these qualities have become a secondary, abstract subject in their own right. Inherently modern — a pixelated image is evoked by using this painstakingly handmade dot technique. My work, therefore, presents a duality of vision — one that juxtaposes the physical and the emotional, the figurative and the abstract, the handmade and the manufactured.

As a child growing up in the country, some of my happiest memories are simple and involve the outdoors. Laying in the grass under a tree in summer looking up at the sky, always takes me back to a more peaceful time. On a recent visit to Denver, I did just that same activity from childhood, holding a camera in hand to capture a visual of the moment to bring back to the studio. The resulting paintings have bright, light-filled palettes and an optimistic tone, with open skies that hope to evoke similar positive feelings in the viewer.