



## **VIRGINIA STECK** | Artist Statement

Traditional landscape painting reflects Western civilization's view of the natural world by shaping the space into a pristine ideal. A precise landscape viewed from afar feels like an attempt to rationalize, tame, and conquer the environment. In my painting practice, I seek instead to create a conduit for the wild and creative energy of the natural world.

The paintings are textured, detailed, and layered - with a lot to explore visually - yet they retain elusive and loose imagery that invites interpretation. The abstract impressionist style makes me feel reconnected to childhood memories of exploring forests, meadows, and streams.

During my childhood, I lived in five different states and developed a love of exploring new landscapes. Today my inspiration comes from aimless hikes, where I climb over rocks and logs to search for small moments of wonder. While hiking and painting alike, I allow myself to be guided by what's in front of me instead of following a planned route.

"The force that through the green fuse drives the flower" - Dylan Thomas