

Elise Morris

Elise Morris approaches painting as an intuitive exploration of space, layering experiences to reveal both subtle complexity and the raw beauty of the present moment. Her process embraces being fully present, allowing new details to emerge and transform perception.

Inspired by shifting light in nature—through trees, heavy clouds, and reflections in water—Morris captures its ever-changing presence as a fundamental part of daily life. Light, the source of both clarity and shadow, guides her work. She seeks those fleeting moments when a painting's surface becomes more than a boundary, drawing the viewer into a luminous, expansive space filled with warmth, depth, and possibility.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

May 2018. Spring Work. Slate Contemporary, Oakland, CA.

January 2018. Radical Invention. Chicago Art Source Gallery, Chicago, IL.

October 2017. Paintings by Elise Morris. Tower Hill Botanic Gardens, Boston, MA.

April 2017. Color Play. Village Theater Art Gallery, Danville, CA.

February 2017. Au Naturel. The Fancy Schmancy Gallery (online), curated by the Jealous Curator.

June 2016. Luminosity (3 person show). Slate Contemporary, Oakland, CA.

December 2015. New Paintings by Elise Morris. 555 12th St, Oakland, CA.

September 2015. Nature Transformed. Chicago Art Source, Chicago, IL.

January 2015. Prospect 3 Biennial. Ann Connelly Fine Art, Baton Rouge, LA.

November 2014. Wild Open (solo). Bryant Street Gallery, Palo Alto, CA.

December 2013. Elise Morris & Helen Dannelly. Slate Contemporary, Oakland, CA.

July 2013. Summer Salon. Fresh Paint Gallery, Culver City, CA.

March 2013. Daydreams. Jules Place Gallery, Boston, MA.

October 2012. Light Element (solo). Bryant Street Gallery, Palo Alto, CA.

April 2012. Flora & Fauna. Pryor Fine Art, Atlanta, GA.

November 2011. Feral Order. Los Medanos College Art Gallery, Pittsburg, CA.

April 2011. Bountiful (3 person show). Jules Place Gallery, Boston, MA.

March – April 2011. Double Take Group Show. Chicago Art Source, Chicago, IL.

January – March 2011. Verdant Truth (solo). 455 Market Street, San Francisco, CA.

September 2010. Three of a Kind. Chicago Art Source Gallery, Chicago, IL.

November 2009. Juried Alumni Exhibition. JFKU Arts & Consciousness Gallery, Berkeley, CA.

September 2009. Nocturne (solo). Bryant Street Gallery, Palo Alto, CA.

April 2009. Spring! (3 person show). Jules Place Gallery, Boston, MA.

May 2008. Blue Alchemy. The Hive Gallery, Oakland, CA.

March 2008. Juried Alumni Exhibition. JFKU Arts & Consciousness Gallery, Berkeley, CA.

January 2008. Group Show. Bryant Street Gallery, Palo Alto, CA.

December 2007. The Little Show. Swarm Gallery, Oakland, CA.

September 2007. Fragile State. (solo). Bryant Street Gallery, Palo Alto, CA.

June 2007. Monotype Marathon XIII. San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA.

January - February 2007. Otherwise Nature. (3 person show) Swarm Gallery, Oakland, CA.

October - November 2006. Corridor to Autumn II. (solo) Vessel, Berkeley, CA.

August 2006. The Art of Painting. Santa Cruz Art League Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA. (Juror: George Rivera, Executive Director, Triton Museum of Art) Awarded Honorable Mention.

June 2006. Monotype Marathon XII Exhibition. San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, CA.

April - May 2006. Spring Works. E 3 Gallery, New York, NY.

March 2006. Juried Alumni Show. JFKU Arts & Consciousness Gallery, Berkeley, CA.

January 2006. Juried Annual. Gallery Route One, Point Reyes, CA.

September - October 2005. PaperCuts. The Fetterly Gallery, Vallejo, CA.

April 2005. Growth Unseen. (Solo MFA Graduate Show) JFKU Arts & Consciousness Gallery, Berkeley, CA.

December 2002 - January 2003. Juried Annual. ProArts Gallery, Oakland, CA.

January - March 2002. Thoughts Abound (solo). Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA.

April - May 1997. Irwin Scholars 1997, Porter JB Hall Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA.

February - March 1997. NOVAS 1997, Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA.

AFFILIATIONS / AWARDS

2016. Recipient of Artist Grant, Aninstantia Foundation, CA.

June 2015. Alameda County Arts Commission, Highland Hospital, Oakland, CA.

April 2009. Alameda County Arts Commission, Safe House Center, San Leandro, CA.

June 2008. Artist in Residence, Mary Anderson Center, Mount St. Francis, IN.

June 2007. Artist in Residence, Centrum, Port Townsend, WA.

December 2006 - February 2007. Artist Residency, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA.

February 1997. Recipient of 1996-1997 Hyde and Benteen Irwin Scholarship for excellence in the visual arts.

June 1993. Chadwick Foundation Purchase Award, Palos Verdes, CA.

PRESS

In Conversation with Elise Morris, Kathryn Markel Fine Arts Blog, Nov 22, 2016.
<http://www.markelfinearts.com/blog/97/>

Eight Great Artists to Watch, Rivers Spencer, Sept 21, 2015.
<http://riversspencer.com/eight-great-artists-to-watch/>

Design Crush, Sept 1, 2015. <http://designcrushblog.com/2015/09/01/elise-morris/>

Livingly, Elise Morris on Art and Bravery, August 31, 2015.
<http://www.livingly.com/Inspiring+Women/articles/utlCI6OMP Ae/Elise+Morris+Art+Bravery>

Frankie Magazine, August 10, 2015.

<http://www.frankie.com.au/blogs/art/5232-elise-morris-paintings>

The Jealous Curator, July 3, 2015.

<http://www.thejealouscurator.com/blog/2015/07/03/elise-morris/>

The Pink Pagoda, May 14, 2015.

<http://blog.thepinkpagoda.us/2015/05/q-with-artist-elise-morris.html>

Fresh Paint Magazine, Studio Visit, March 15, 2015. <http://freshpaintmagazine.com/elise-morris/>

Artsy Forager, Nov 14, 2013. <http://artsyforager.com/2013/11/14/elise-morris/>

Shelter, June 1, 2010.

<http://shelterinteriordesign.blogspot.com/2010/06/artist-love-elise-morris.html>

REPRESENTATION

Kathryn Markel Fine Arts, New York, NY

Slate Contemporary, Oakland, CA

Ann Connelly Fine Art, Baton Rouge, LA

Bryant Street Gallery, Palo Alto, CA

Chicago Art Source, Chicago, IL

Pryor Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

Jules Place Gallery, Boston, MA

Fresh Paint, Culver City, CA

EDUCATION

June 2005

M.F.A., John F. Kennedy University, Arts and Consciousness. Berkeley, CA.

June 1997

B.A. Fine Art, Painting and Printmaking, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA.