

Artist Statement

Photography and Wax

I am a Southern Oregon photographer with a strong interest in alternative photographic processes. In the past 18 months I have begun incorporating the encaustic wax technique to move beyond the static photograph to bring in more painterly elements. I enjoy the hands on quality of the encaustic process. In the digital age and the rise of AI I feel the need to express my individuality. Encaustic is an ancient medium that blends beautifully with photography to produce unique handmade art.

Most of my images are printed on Japanese Washi paper attached to a solid support. To this I add beeswax and various coloring elements. The wax softens the image and adds a luminescent glow as well as allowing for manipulation of texture. The many layers of wax I use gives a sense of depth to the image.

Many of my images are found on daily walks or in my garden. I like to take the familiar and present it in a new way. I often collect common plants or “weeds” and invasive species to use as they are often overlooked but have a singular beauty and form when brought into the studio. As A Zen Buddhist I am interested in the concept of impermanence, things are always changing as evidenced in plants going to seed ready to begin again the endless life cycle in the spring.

I use encaustic with landscape photography to provide more of a narrative to the image. The wax can obscure, add depth and glow so the image becomes like a half remembered memory of a day spent walking in the woods with sunlight filtering in the trees.