

GISELLE GAUTREAU is an artist who creates contemporary landscape paintings in oil and encaustic. She received her MFA in Painting from Virginia Commonwealth University and has a BFA in Painting from Maine College of Art, and has had multiple awards and solo shows. Giselle is currently a resident artist at the McGuffey Art Center in downtown Charlottesville, Virginia.



Giselle explores ideas of memory of place, the landscape and ecology. Endlessly influenced by nature, her paintings explore the intersection of color and atmosphere along with the impact of what nature inspires. She paints with numerous layers of oil or encaustic paints, using both opaque and translucent layers to achieve a sense of depth, atmosphere and luminosity. While her work is rooted in direct observation and experience, it becomes more about the memory of a place and my connection to it as she paints. She writes:

"The landscape for me is both visual inspiration and sometimes a metaphor for loss, change, resiliency and adaptation. For me, painting the landscape is a reminder of our connections to it."

Giselle is working on a series of mixed media encaustic works that incorporates her own drawings, maps, oil, charcoal, graphite, watercolor and pigment along with encaustic wax. She is interested in exploring landscape as memory, metaphor, nostalgia, beauty, change and resilience. She is also working on another series using long vertical panels and combining elements of collage, oil painting and encaustic to explore the concepts of memory and landscape while working with the materiality of mixed media.

The grant funds will allow Giselle to work in a bigger scale by purchasing larger panels, materials and encaustic wax for an environmental themed exhibition. Her proposal included the following statement: "It is through the lens of beauty and wonder, that I hope to heighten and focus the experience of the natural world and to engender a desire to preserve and protect it." She continues: *"What I'm hoping for is to bridge landscape, nature, the tactile qualities of wax with larger concerns about the environment through the connection of beauty. Support for materials will go toward creating new works for these upcoming exhibits, facilitate the ongoing work that I'm currently involved in and to help me realize my ambitions for larger scaled works."*



Giselle Gautreau: Project Grant Recipient: December 2021

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