

PHYLLIS BRYCE ELY earned her BFA in painting and printmaking from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 1981, and has been juried into and won honors and awards in many exhibitions. She paints en plein air and in the studio, and is regarded for her landscapes and depictions of upstate New York, Lake Ontario, the Finger Lakes region. She paints primarily in oil, encaustic wax, and oil with cold wax medium.

She writes "I have been working as a studio and plein air painter since earning my BFA. I paint in response to the land; inspired by wild spaces, churning nature, rugged edges, and distance. I am also inspired by words that strike me and evoke images as I read.

My studio and plein air practices feed each other. Working directly outdoors allows me to connect with nature... in studio, I can further develop imagery from my plein air work, sketches and photographs.

Whether in the field or studio, my paintings offer a narrative of color, line, form, movement, light, and pattern through rolling fields, extreme edges, moving water, and dramatic skies. I am also attracted to man-made lines and patterns from plowed and excavated fields, vineyards, power lines, roads, and structures. Features of the landscape become "characters" in the story I paint."

She continues, "Working with encaustics brings the best of all other art-making experiences together for me. The shared qualities of painting, printmaking, and the ability to incise and integrate other media, is endlessly satisfying. My studio space is now devoted to encaustic and oil painting."

Phyllis plans to use the IEA Project Grant to develop and refine a portable plein air / encaustic wax workstation, which will overcome the challenges of working with wax outdoors, in all seasons, and without the convenience of electricity. She will document her discoveries and share best practices with us as she creates an all-seasons body of plein air / encaustic work.

We are looking forward to learning about her exploration!

To view Phyllis' work, please visit her website: www.phyllisbryceely.com



2020 Project Grant Winner:

Phyllis Bryce Ely

*Clockwise: L-R:
"Belderrig: Millennia of Bog",
"Inisheer Stone Wall", "
Giant's Playground, Burren"*



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