

BRENDA CHRYSTIE

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Education

University of Idaho / MFA
1999, Moscow, Idaho

The School of The Art Institute of Chicago / BFA
1994, Chicago, Illinois

California State Polytechnic University Pomona / BA
1991, Pomona, California

Artist Statement

I paint from photos, mostly from those that I take, some from family and friends. I am particularly drawn to those that showcase sublime moments of everyday exchange, wealthy moments in that they symbolize such interactions: the feeling of being in a forest, how it feels to have a breakthrough moment in recovery from addiction, and the personalities of those whom I meet along the way.

Bio

Since March 2020, Brenda has been going on daily walks through her neighborhood and nearby woods, giving treats to dogs and horses met along the way while taking lots of photographs of things she finds beautiful: the light through the trees and the overwhelming varieties of greens and blues. It was only recently that she started painting from these images in addition to her first artistic love, the figure.

Before 2023, she taught at Cornish College of the Arts before entering the field of nonprofit leadership in 2000. From 2018 to 2022, Brenda served as part-time executive director for the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, which provided her the fertile ground to bring a collaborative dream to life - Paint By Tunnels, a community mural program in partnership with the King County Department of Parks & Natural Resources and the City of Maple Valley, and the program's inaugural mural artist. During this time, she also served on the City of Maple Valley's Public Arts Commission which installed two major public art projects and several wrapped utility boxes.

Born in 1967 and raised among engineers, this Southern California native defied generations of tradition by choosing Art. However, tinkering and problem-solving are in her blood and inherent in her work, personally and in the community. Brenda's work can be found in private collections, journals, publications, and a tunnel on the Cedar to Green Rivers Trail in Maple Valley. She has lived in the Pacific Northwest since 1999 and in Maple Valley Heights for fourteen years with her boat-building sweetie, Ike, and cat, Madison. When not in the studio, you can find her helping out in the boat shop (if not on the water!), working on perfecting her pie crust, or out in the woods.

Featured At

House & Hazel, Maple Valley, Washington

Shows & Exhibits

2023

- 6th Annual Women Artists Online International Juried Exhibit, Fusion Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Small Works 2023, Main Street Arts, Clifton Springs, New York, Juror - Bradley Butler
- 8th Annual Waterscapes Juried Online Show, [Fusion Art], Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Human Form And Figure, San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center's Juried Online Show, Encino, California
- Featured Artist, House & Hazel, Maple Valley, Washington
- GEMS Juried Exhibit, King County Fair, Enumclaw, Washington
- The Bold Brush, FASO.com
- The Dog Days Of Summer, KBM Art Gallery, Riverside, California

2022

- ArtWalk Refresh, Group Show, Maple Valley, Washington
- GEMS Juried Exhibit, King County Fair, Enumclaw, Washington
- Hello Summer!, Juried Group Show, Gallery North, Edmonds, Washington
- Maple Valley Arts Fest Juried Show, Maple Valley, Washington

2021

- The Great Annual NW Art Exhibit, Parklane Gallery, Kirkland, Washington
- Maple Valley ArtWalk, Group Exhibit, Maple Valley, Washington
- Juried Exhibition, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington

2020

- Fourth Biennial Visual Impressions, Ryan James Fine Arts, Kirkland, Washington
- Frolic, Shadow Lake Nature Preserve, Maple Valley, Washington
- Maple Valley ArtWalk, Group Exhibit, Maple Valley, Washington
- Juried Exhibition, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington; Kathleen Frugé-Brown, Juror

2019

- Paint By Tunnels Mural, Cedar to Green Rivers Trail, Maple Valley, Washington
- Juried Exhibition, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington; Suzanne Gardner, Juror
- Maple Valley ArtWalk, Group Exhibit, Maple Valley, Washington
- Group Exhibition, Lake Wilderness Lodge, Maple Valley, Washington

2018

- Juried Exhibition, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington; Barbara Newton Benetti, Juror
- Maple Valley ArtWalk, Group Exhibit, Maple Valley, Washington
- Solo Exhibition, Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, Maple Valley, Washington

2017

- Solo Exhibition, Maple Valley Creative Arts Council, Maple Valley, Washington
- *Elegant Beauty: Five Millenia In The Making*, Group Exhibition, Shadow Lake Nature Preserve, Maple Valley, Washington
- Maple Valley ArtWalk, Solo Exhibition, The Nutty Squirrel, Maple Valley, Washington
- Juried Exhibition, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington; Kathleen Moore, Juror
- *Art Walk*, Group Exhibition, Eagle River Interiors, Maple Valley, Washington

2016

- ArtPrize Eight, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Awards

2023

- Third Place, 6th Annual Women Artists Online International Juried Exhibit, Fusion Art, Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Second Place, Human Form And Figure, San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center's Juried Online Show, Encino, California
- Fourth Place, 8th Annual Waterscapes Juried Online Show, [Fusion Art], Santa Fe, New Mexico

2022

- First Place, GEMS, King County Fair, Enumclaw, Washington

2021

- Best of Show, The Great Annual NW Art Exhibit, Parklane Gallery, Kirkland, Washington; Elizabeth Pollie, Juror
- Juror's Choice Best of Show Award, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington; Cory Peeke, Juror

2020

- Juror's Choice Award, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington

2019

- CPRS, Inc. Purchase Prize, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington

2018

- Juror's Choice Award, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington
- CPRS, Inc. Purchase Prize, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington

2017

- CPRS, Inc. Purchase Prize, Maple Valley Arts Fest, Maple Valley, Washington

Public Art

2019

- Mural Artist, Paint By Tunnels, a mural project on the Cedar To Green Rivers Trail in Maple Valley, Washington
Project Lead and Artist

2018-2022

- Project Manager, Paint By Tunnels, the Maple Valley Creative Arts Council's annual community mural project on the Cedar To Green Rivers Trail in Maple Valley, Washington

2018-2022

- Commissioner, Public Arts Commission, City of Maple Valley, Maple Valley, Washington

Grants & Fellowships

2022

- Artist's Recovery Grant, 4Culture, King County, Washington

Published Artworks

2009

- Cover image, "Once the Shore." Paul Yoon, Sarabande Books

2005

- Cover image, "British Sociology Seen From Without And Within," Edited By A.H. Halsey And W.G. Runciman, British Academy Publications
- Cover image, "The Time Machine And The Invisible Man," H.G. Wells. Barnes & Noble Classics, New York
- The Virginia Quarterly Review, Volume 81 – Number 4, University Of Virginia Press – Paintings selected to illustrate the following short stories: "Peacekeeper," By Alan Heathcock; "Smother," By Joyce Carol Oates; "Ina Grove," By R.T. Smith

2000

- Illustration, Nouveau, Moderne Ou Contemporaine?, Marc-Olivier Dupin, Directeur General, Illustration, "L'île Joyeuse," Journal Of The National Orchestra Of France

Reviews|Articles|Features

2000

- "CoCA's mixed bag," Matthew Kangas, The Seattle Times

1999

- "Banishing The Demons," The Argonaut, University of Idaho

1997

- "Women Artists Featured At New Gallery," The Argonaut, University of Idaho

Academic Appointments

2017-2019

- STEAMboat Studio / Art Instructor, Maple Valley, Washington

1999-2000

- Cornish College of the Arts / Visiting Instructor, Seattle, Washington

1997-1999

- University of Idaho / Instructor, Moscow, Idaho

Selected Public & Private Collections

Ted Lord & Chris Cooper Private Collection
Seattle, Washington

L'Academia de Bella Arti
Florence, Italy