

## **Artist Statement**

### **Barbara Howes**

I am a full time human living in Edgewood, New Mexico. Since age 12, I have always enjoyed viewing art and the practice of making art.

In 1995-2007, I practiced theatre arts at Lakeside Little Theatre which is Mexico's oldest English language theatre. Through my theatre period I began to understand people wanted connection with art and a way to participate in art. I learned how to make art stand up and move. Mexico was a perfect place to study color and expand my artist palette.

While in Mexico, I worked in the community as a volunteer for a NGO on an environmental project to save Mexico's largest lake, Lake Chapala. As a result, I was able to travel with the group to South America for an international conference on sustainable development and to Germany. I studied various cultures, art and sustainable development in each place.

From 2008-2013, I had an opportunity to audit classes at CU Boulder in art and environmental sciences. There I learned art basics, drawing, oil painting and design and began to know the importance of art as a way to connect with people without using words. I am grateful for professors: George Rivera, Joo Yeon Woo and David Younkey at CU Boulder. Other painting studies followed at the Denver Art Museum and the Art Students League of Denver. Moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico area in 2016, I added acrylic art studies with Polly Jackson. I have done art shows in Denver and participated with my art work in benefit projects and auctions.

I have enjoyed creating commissioned art works for art patrons in California, Indiana and in Chicago. I am available for painting with you what is important to you.

### **Currently**

I am inspired by discussions with people in my communities and at continuing education at UNM. Images gathered from road trips or just sitting outside are always an inspiration. I illustrate in paintings what I see\experience and am learning. I hope this draws people in and causes examination of how we each participate in developing and connecting with "environments" we observe.

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