

Mel Davis



Mel Davis's paintings catch the eye with their vitality and sustain that interest through complex harmonies of tone, style, and reference. Working with the traditional tools and subjects of her medium, the Berkeley-based painter collages varied styles of mark-making into new compositions: long thin brush strokes, hard-edged black zig-zags, and bold Matisse-like flora are all juxtaposed and set in dialogue. Despite this variety in subject matter, though, a singular taste-level and sense of aesthetic depth runs through each work.

The works can feel like a landscape of painting moments: all at once both a visual encounter—a confrontation of colors, a mirroring of forms—and a proposition about painting as a medium—its history and its process. A painter's painter, Davis is deeply involved in conversations internal to the medium, but that's not to say her work is academic. On the contrary, there's a generousness to her vision and a loving passion in its execution. Maintaining her devotion to the tradition of painting, she develops it in ways both poetic and adventurous.

Mel Davis is a Berkeley, California based artist. She grew up in Montreal, graduated with a BFA at Concordia University and moved to the Bay Area to complete her MFA at The San Francisco Art Institute. She is part of numerous private and public collections and is the recipient of The Canada Council For The Arts Grant, The Irene Pijoan Memorial Award for Painting and the Pollock Krasner Foundation Award.

Education

2005	MFA The San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, California
2002	The Slade School of Art London, United Kingdom
1999	BFA Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec Studio Arts

Solo Exhibitions

2020 Hihhi You feel good *I, Barbara Davis Gallery, Houston, Texas
2017 Meet Me In The Usual Place, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles
2013 Begin Here, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2011 A Surprising Turn of Events, Eleanor Harwood Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Group Exhibitions

2023 20th Anniversary Celebration: Summer Group Show, Oeno Gallery, Bloomfield, ON
2022 Strong Feelings, Oeno Gallery, Prince Edward County, ON
2022 Summer Array Group Exhibition, Oeno Gallery, Prince Edward County, ON
2020 Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, CA
2019 Summer Exhibition, Honor Fraser, Los Angeles, CA
2017 Woman Painters Madison Gallery, LA Jolla, CA
2016 Between Land and Sky: Olga Korper Gallery, Toronto Canada
2013 Cloud Chambers, The Mayors Parlor Gallery, London, U.K.
2013 In-Between, Contemporary Art Center, Las Vegas, NV
2010 This Cool, Larry Becker Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA

Awards

2016 The Pollock-Krasner Foundation
2014 The Canada Council for the Arts, Travel Grant
2008 The Canada Council for the Arts, Research Grant
2005 The Irene Pijoan Memorial Award for Painting, Painting Prize
2004 The Conseil des Arts et lettres du Quebec

Selected Publications

2018 New American Paintings Pacific Coast
2017 Comingling of Ideas At Honor Fraser, Los Angeles
2017 What Not To Miss: Los Angeles November Shows
2014 Turps Banana Issue #14, United Kingdom
2013 CCA Notes from the Studio Lecture Series
2013 Interview at Eleanor Harwood Gallery