

Molly Cliff Hilts

Born: February 20, 1958

Education

1992/02 Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, OR
1991/92 Museum School, Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR
1981 B.A. Fine Arts, Porter College, University of California Santa Cruz, CA
1976/79 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2008 Intersection, Allen Sheppard Gallery, New York, NY
2006 Encaustic Paintings from the NW, Synchronicity Fine Arts, New York, NY
2004 New Paintings, Borrego Art Institute, Borrego Springs, CA
2003 Molly Cliff Hilts, Washington State University, Vancouver, WA
Molly Cliff Hilts, Modern Media Gallery, Portland, OR
New Encaustic Paintings, High Desert Museum, Bend, OR
Encaustic Paintings Molly Cliff Hilts, Broken Top Club, Bend, OR
2001 NW Artist Molly Cliff Hilts, State Capitol, Salem, OR
2000-2013 Private Salons, Double Nickel Studios, Portland, OR

Selected Group Exhibitions

2014 The Figure - in Oil, Encaustic & Clay, 3-artist show, Eno Gallery, Hillsborough, N.C.
Oregon ArtBeat Alum Show, Mark Woolley Gallery, Portland, OR (invitational)
Oregon Artist Showcase: Best Contemporary Art in Oregon, Parrish Gallery, Chehalem Cultural Center, Newberg, OR (juried and curated by Elizabeth Spavento)

Art on the Vine, Oregon College of Art & Craft, Portland, OR (invitational, inclusion in catalog, live auction)

2013 Spring Exhibition, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)
20th Annual Sitka Art Invitational, Forestry Center, Portland, OR (invitational)
Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)

2012 Lines of Communication, Eno Gallery, Hillsborough, NC (invitational)
Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)

2011 Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)

2010 17th Annual Sitka Art Invitational, "Drawn from Nature: A Celebration of Sitka and NW Artists", World Forestry Center, Portland, OR (invitational)
2010 Lake Oswego Arts Chronicle, "Luminous Layers" Exhibition, Lake Oswego, OR (invitational)
Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)
5th Annual Encaustic Invitational, Conrad Wilde Gallery, Tucson, AZ (juried)

2009 225°F Encaustic Encounters, Turchin Center for the Visual Arts, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC (Nov 2009 - Feb 2010, invitational)
2009 Lake Oswego Arts Chronicle, Lake Oswego, OR (invitational)

- Group Show, Allen Sheppard Gallery, New York, NY
Beaverton Visual Arts Showcase, Beaverton Library, Beaverton, OR (juried, "Best of Show" award)
- 2008 Annual Art Evening, Cascade Aids Project benefit auction, Portland, OR
Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)
Art in the Round Barn Exhibition, Waitsfield Vermont (juried)
Annual Art Evening, Honorable Mention, Cascade Aids Project benefit auction, Portland OR (catalog inclusion juried)
- 2007 Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)
Renewal, Marin Museum of Contemporary Art, Novato, CA (juried)
Griffith Park Benefit Show, LittleBird Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Summer Ensemble, Borrego Art Institute, Borrego Springs, CA
Group Exhibition, Rebecca V Gallery, Tacoma, WA
- 2006 Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)
West Coast Encaustics Artists Group Show, O'Hanlon Center for the Arts, Mill Valley, CA
Impulse, Portland Art Center, Portland, OR (juried)
Synchronicity's Collection, Synchronicity Fine Arts, New York, NY
between texture & light - four artists, two cities, NYC & PDX, Autzen Gallery, Portland State University, Portland, OR, with Sheila Berger, Robert Chambers, Molly Cliff-Hilts, Sarah Wolf Newlands, essay by Michael Rips
- 2005 Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)
James Opie Private Collection Exhibition, Portland OR
- 2003 Spring and Fall Exhibitions, Portland Art Museum Rental Sales Gallery, Portland, OR (juried)
Art For Life, Cascade Aids Project, Portland, OR (juried)
- 2002 Buckman Arts Show & Sell, Portland, OR (juried)
Fall Opening, Ellis & Samuels, Borrego Springs, CA
Buckman Arts Show & Sell, Portland, OR (juried)
- 1998 Senior Show, Mary Porter Sesnon Gallery, Porter College, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA

Salon Exhibitions

- 2000- 2013 Literary, Music and Art Salons, annual, Double Nickel Studios, Portland, OR - collaboration with poets, essayists, musicians and artists. Past honored guests include New York Times Art & Culture writer, Larry Rohter, writer/musician Kristin Hersh, authors Kurt Andersen and Anne Kreamer, painter Timothy Mc Dowell, actress Ann Cusack, Oregon Book Award Winners Cai Emmons and Marc Acito

Selected Press

- 2009 Campbell, Brett, "Artist on the Rise", Oregon Quarterly magazine / Winter 2009
NY Art Beat, "Molly Cliff Hilts, Intersection"
Lewis, David C., "Molly Cliff Hilts", All the Art Out There blog / 10 March
McCabe, Jim, "Gallery Visit, Molly Cliff-Hilts", All Nite Diner & Two Leaf Gallery blog / 10 January
- 2008 Graves, Ginny, "Living a More Creative Life", SELF magazine / October

- 2006 Beland, Peter, The Mudroom, Portland Monthly Magazine / May
Acito, Marc, P-Town Diary, Portland Monthly Magazine / November
Row, D.K., "Shows of Note", Between Texture & Light, The Oregonian, A&E / 21 July
Row, D.K., "Shows of Note", The Oregonian, A&E / 7 July
- 2005 Nicholas, Jonathan, "Heavy Luggage", The Oregonian, Living / 27 February
Oregon Public Broadcasting television, interview / 15 September
Portland Monthly magazine, "Regarding Henry" / July
- 2004 Solen, Cat, Red76 Arts Group, "Portland Art Diary" / October (featured in documentary video, Memorial Coliseum)
- 2002 Oregon Public Broadcasting television, Oregon Art Beat / June

Selected Private, Corporate and Public Commissions

Deschutes Brewery, Bend, OR
Gerding Edlen Development Company, PDX Cyan building lobby, Portland, OR
Henry's 12th Street Tavern, Portland, OR
L'auberge du Lac Hotel & Casino, Le Beaucoup Buffet, Lake Charles, LA
Manzana Rotisserie Grill, Bellevue, WA
Manzana Rotisserie Grill, Lake Oswego OR
Manzana Rotisserie Grill, Pearl District, Portland, OR
Mastros Ocean Club, Newport Beach, CA
Portland City Grill, Portland, OR

Selected Corporate and Public Collections

Capital One Bank, Portland, OR
Care Oregon corporate offices, Portland, OR
Corral de Tierra Country Club, Salinas, CA
City of Portland, Mayor's Office, Portland, OR
City of Portland, Commissioner's Office, Portland, OR
City of Portland, Visual Chronicle of Portland, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Portland, OR
Cityview Funeral Home, Salem, OR
Central City Concern, lobby, 8 NW 8th Building, Portland, OR
Cmedia, Portland, OR
Gerding Edlen Development Company, The Meriwether, Portland, OR
Marriott Hotel, lobby, Portland, OR
MODA Health corporate offices, Portland, OR
Northwest Health Foundation, Portland, OR
Planned Parenthood Regional Service Center, Portland, OR
Pendleton Woolen Mills, Portland, OR
Shiels Obletz Johnsen, Belmont Dairy lobby, Portland, OR
Special Materials Company corporate headquarters, Manhattan, NY
University of North Carolina Hospital, Hillsborough Campus, Hillsborough, NC.

And numerous private collections, including Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR
and Bill and Melinda Gates, Redmond, WA

Collaborations

2008 - Current

Paradoxical Undressing, The Getty Center, Los Angeles, CA; the Boston Museum of Art, Boston, MA; Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, England; St. Andrews in the Square, Glasgow, Scotland; Festival of the Fringe, Edinburgh, Scotland; Crossing Borders Festival, The Hague - live multimedia presentation with musician and author Kristin Hersh (Throwing Muses). Molly's projected paintings are the visual basis for Kristin's autobiographical spoken word performance.

Selected Licenses

Contemporary Artist Series limited edition tapestries, Pendleton Woolen Mills, Portland, OR

Honors/Awards

- 2013 RACC Visual Chronicle of Portland public art collection
2012 Nomination and finalist for the Encaustic La Vendeene Artistry Award, International Encaustic Association
2010 Franklin Award, service and mentoring in arts education, Franklin High School, Portland OR
2009 "Best in Show", Beaverton Arts Commission, Visual Showcase, Beaverton, OR
2008 "Honorable Mention", Cascade Aids Project benefit auction, Portland OR

Representation

Allen Sheppard Gallery, New York City, NY and Philadelphia, PA
Double Nickel Studios, Portland, OR
Eno Gallery, Hillsborough, NC
Portland Art Museum Gallery, Portland, OR

Affiliations

Live Wire Radio Theatre, Oregon Public Broadcasting Radio, Resource Council
Portland Art Museum, Education Committee
Portland Brooklyn Project, co-founder with Kurt Andersen

Artist Statement

I am a visual artist who lives and works in Portland, Oregon, and I have been painting full time since 1998. My work is a contemplative practice with a strong focus on relationships and the belief that everything and everyone is connected.

My early still-life imagery evolved into landscapes and in the past few years has expanded to include portraiture. I am currently immersed in project, which I call "2 Degrees of Separation," of life-size portraits of authors who are friends, and authors who are friends of friends. The intention with these portraits of writers, who express their experience through their words, is to visually communicate a simple truth that I observe in each of them.

To date, the portrait collection includes "The Caretaker," of memoirist and artist Wendy Burden embracing a stone lion, the last vestige of life as a descendent of Cornelius Vanderbilt. "Kitty is Here" is of author Tom

Robbins and his little dog, Blini, immersed in one of his prized 1950s-era circus sideshow tent paintings; the painting "Here" is of musician and author Kristin Hersh, founder and front-woman of the seminal indie-rock band, Throwing Muses and whose lyrics I find compelling and often haunting. She is submerged in water and open, as are her eyes. "Hideaway," the prototype painting in this collection is of two dear friends (an artist and writer) against a mid-century poolside setting in Palm Springs. This is an interpretation of their imaginary alter-ego life contrasted to their real lives in busy Manhattan.

There is a personal story behind each portrait, with threads of connections and organic collaborations that continue to grow. For example, Wendy Burden is now painting my portrait. Kristin Hersh has fused her life story with my paintings, projected as the visual basis for her performance "Paradoxical Undressing", which debuted at Queen Elizabeth Hall in 2008 and performed at The Getty Center and the Boston Museum 2011.

Once a solid body of work is assembled, my hope is to gather these portraits and host a literary art salon. This practice of hosting salons, gathering artists from different disciplines, has been part of my family history for over 100 years. I love the idea of these portraits once assembled in a large space, interacting with one another and I'm looking forward to a diverse group of subjects--some iconic, some unsung, all dynamic - gathered together via their portraits for a salon.