



“Ready to begin again”
Emily Talley

When artist Emily Talley creates her work, she has a sense of "interbeing," of being part of something greater than her individual self. This feeling is expressed in the words of Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh:

“If you are a poet, you will see clearly that there is a cloud floating in this piece of paper. Without a cloud there will be no water; without water, the trees cannot grow; and without trees, you cannot make paper. So the cloud is in here. The existence of this page is dependent on the existence of a cloud. Paper and cloud are so close...”

Before creating a new piece, Talley prepares her work space as shown below. She enjoys posting a photo of the space to Facebook with the tagline, "ready to begin again."



Talley's Art Studio Space

Talley has set up her art studio in her kitchen. "I felt drawn to creating my work in that space," she says, "and so, in the interplay sense of the word, I decided to go with it!"

A willingness to follow her intuition and engage her creativity in unexpected ways is characteristic of the way Talley works. She has been an artist since early childhood, and by her adolescence, she had grown passionate about creating artwork, playing the piano and figure skating.

"My artwork has given me a way to both contain and express powerful emotions that might have otherwise overwhelmed me," Talley says. She credits her art with helping her through some very challenging times in her life.

Talley grew up in Southern California, close to the ocean. Her strong connection to water is reflected in her artwork. She recently learned how to kayak, and absolutely fell in love with it. Talley often photographs lakes and rivers as she explores them in her kayak, and this becomes inspiration for her artwork.

Formal art training began for Talley at the age of 16 when she started studying figurative sculpture under Frank Morgan. She studied under Morgan

for four years, and then moved to Minnesota in the early 1980's upon acceptance to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.



Cold-cast bronze sculpture, 1/3 life-size (1976)

In 1987, Talley completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Studio Arts with an emphasis in drawing and painting. She especially loved to draw the figure.

Talley continued to practice figure drawing by attending weekly artist co-ops. "Florence Hills' drawing co-op is still being held, some 30 years after I first started going to it," says Talley. These co-ops provided great stability for Talley and deep connections with other artists and the art community in the Twin Cities, Minnesota.



Figure Drawing | 6" x 8" | Pencil on Paper (~1990)

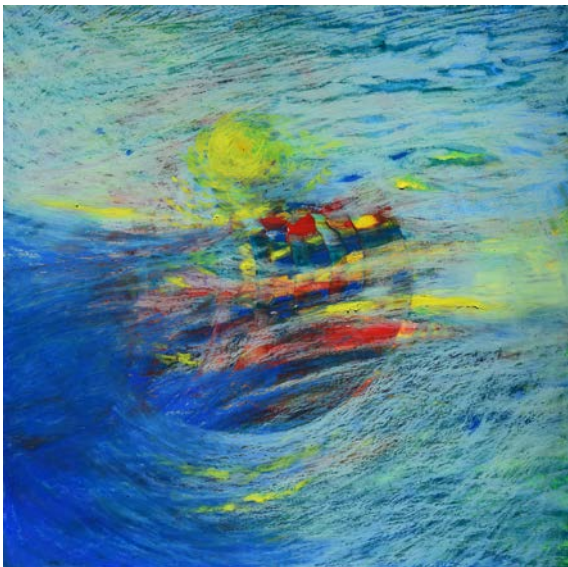
Talley is also deeply connected to being a life-long learner. She says that learning is the process of being "ready to begin again." So, not surprisingly, Talley continued on to graduate

school. She earned a Master of Science degree in 2009.

When Talley was in graduate school, she said to her instructor, "I used to do lots of artwork," and then the instructor looked sad and asked, "Why aren't you still doing your art?" At that moment, Talley remembered feeling as though she had abandoned her child.

In 2015, Talley tiptoed back into doing artwork. "I found that when I do my artwork, I feel deeply connected to my truest, authentic self, and I am very grateful for that," says Talley. Her artwork also helps her to connect with other people.

Collectors and fans of Talley's artwork have commented, "It's so happy!"... "The use of color is exquisite"... "Absolutely amazing"... "I'm in tears.. moving work"... "Forceful"... "Beautiful"... "Stunning"...



"Stand with Standing Rock" | 12" x 12" | Pastel on Paper

Throughout Talley's life, people have expressed a strong interest in her art and a desire for her to continue doing her artwork. She is now slowly transitioning from her "day job" into becoming a full-time, professional artist.

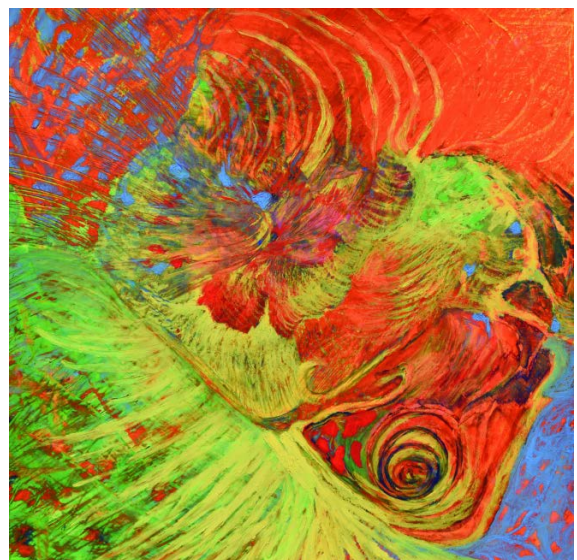
This transition began with two art fairs in Minnesota, and then blossomed into exhibitions in New York City and California. In 2016, Talley was deeply honored to be formally inducted into the

National Association of Women Artists (NAWA). According to NAWA, "Many members and supporters have exhibited in major museums and have taken their rightful place among the recognized artists of their time. Louise Nevelson, Malvina Hoffman, Cleo Hartwog, Minna Citron, Nell Blaine, Dorothy Dehner, Alice Neel, Marisol, Pat Adams, Judy Chicago, Miriam Schapiro, Janet Fish and Audrey Flack, and other contemporary talented artists."



"Joy" | 12" x 12" | Pastel on Paper

Talley is very excited about her artistic future. As she approaches the next leg of her journey, she is "ready to begin again."



"Spiral Path" | 12" x 12" | Pastel on Paper