

Jill Jones
315 Arlington Avenue, #1403
Charlotte NC 28203



Contemporary landscape artist working primarily in oil and charcoal.



The first question I'm asked about my landscape paintings is usually, "Is this a real place?" My answer is, "Yes. Sort of, anyway."

While I paint exclusively from my imagination, the imagery is fueled from memories of growing up in the once-bucolic farmland outside of the little town of Chesnee. Long days on horseback spent exploring my surroundings led to my catalog of subject matter: fields overtaken by kudzu, forgotten peach orchards, yellow skies with roiling grey-green clouds, seemingly endless seas of soybeans.

As an artist, I am more interested in mood than in detail, in conveying how a place feels rather than how it looks. Because of this, my painted memories are less sentimental than they are dark and dreamlike. I err on the side of simplicity, believing - like Francis Bacon - that the job of the artist is always to deepen the mystery. Too much information and the mystery is spoiled.

It's why I paint from memory. Without the crutch of photographs to guide me, extraneous details fade away. What remains are shape and shadow, mood and feeling - the expression of an inner landscape that can be far more interesting than the real world.

I completed my BFA in studio art from Converse College in 2002, coming on the heels of a 15-year career as a newspaper reporter. The similarities between my two careers are great: I once painted pictures with words. Now I use brushes.

*From the book, "Artists Among Us" by Edward Emory and Stephen Stinson
Hub City Press, 2011
Spartanburg, SC*

- Represented by Elder Gallery since 2002
- Included in numerous national and regional art competitions juried by such curators as Lillian Tone of the MoMa and international illustrator Sue Coe
- Mounted successful one and two-person shows in both commercial and museum art galleries
- Awards include Best of Shows at the Upstate Visual Arts Annual Juried Exhibition in Greenville, SC, the Anderson County Annual Juried Exhibition and the Artists' Guild of Spartanburg
- Served on the boards of the Spartanburg Arts Museum (SAM), the Artists' Guild of Spartanburg and the Upstairs Arts Advisory Board in Tyron, NC

EDUCATION

University of South Carolina, Columbia SC
BA in Journalism with an emphasis on print media

Converse College, Spartanburg SC
BFA in Studio Art - summa cum laude

WORK HISTORY

Self-employed artist, 2010-present