



KENISE BARNES FINE ART
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YOLANDA SÁNCHEZ

BIOGRAPHY

I was born in Havana and immigrated to the US in 1960. I obtained a PhD in Clinical Psychology in 1979; practiced and taught psychology at the graduate level for many years. Prompted by a personal crisis in my mid-30s, I decided to give voice to my creativity, obtaining a BFA and subsequently, an MFA from Yale University in painting. I am a Fulbright scholar, completing my fellowship as a painter in Spain after I graduated from Yale.

Making art for me is a way of being present in the world; it is an act of attention. It is my desire to become both a more finely tuned observer and to live more in the moment. Through this attention, I give back and offer praise to the world. As such, my work is celebratory, expanding and about offering pleasure. Nature, in a very broad sense, is my source of inspiration but I am not recreating the external world. In a non-intellectual way, I am translating and projecting thoughts, emotions and sensations, into a moment of meeting, working with light, color and mark and the materiality of the paint itself.

My work is related to my spiritual development and is a reflection of my study and practice of Buddhism, an experiential practice. It is not about dogma but is about *doing* – the effort to develop more mindfulness, greater attention and compassion, to sharpen the senses. Making art helps me toward this end. From a formal perspective, my marks are informed by my study and training in calligraphy and my background in dance. Both of these practices use and reflect elements of movement and stillness, suggesting at once, dissolution and impermanence, but also, interrelatedness. The goal is to capture an energy or spirit – something impermanent, moving and changing.

My work moves forward and opens as my spirituality moves forward. My intention for the future is to widen my boundaries – find new sources of inspiration, discover something I don't know – any or all of these experiences that make me love the world a little more.