

My surrealistic style takes the viewer on a journey only reachable by imagination. Just as literary folktales and fables often attribute human qualities to animals and nature, I use human forms as metaphors to illustrate natural phenomena. I use familiar elements in my paintings in unexpected ways to evoke an emotional response from viewers. I try to let nature speak through artistic expression by expanding on themes such as creation, birth, our connection to the environment, as if nature were a conscious eye-witness to human activity.

### **People and Land of the West**

My newest series, *People and Land of the West*, depicts the desert's natural elements as an illustrated folktale. "Wildfire" personifies a naturally occurring wildfire as a mischievous young cowgirl, whose carelessness sets the landscape ablaze. "Her Land" portrays Mother Nature as a cowgirl watching over and protecting her precious land. This series of traditional oil paintings will continue, personifying tales of the West from desert monsoons to dust devils.

### **Trees of the Southwest**

Beautiful, expired trees embellish the desert landscape. These gloomy abandoned trees tell a story of a colorful but extreme desert life. The colors used in these paintings express the life that these trees once had and evoke the permanent role they play in the desert.

Notes on medium and technique: *Trees of the Southwest* combines collaged acrylic and traditional acrylic and oil painting techniques on canvas. The collaged acrylic materials are acrylic paint that is first dried and then applied to the canvas with acrylic painting materials. The dry, petrified, yet vibrant life left in spent desert trees inspires the technique.