

# P R I N C I P L E G A L L E R Y

## ***About the Artist : Christie Younger***

I have had a love for creating and learning about art my entire life. My art education and experiences started as soon as I could use my hands. Both of my parents encouraged my creativity throughout my life by immersing me in many extracurricular art programs. I was exposed to all sorts of mediums from drawing, painting, ceramics, and sculpture to crafts such as paper making, basket weaving, silk screening, etc. This continued throughout high school and college. I've had the opportunity to receive formal instruction ranging from courses in college to time abroad in Italy to summers spent at Pendleton near Asheville to camps and activities at home in Hillsboro, Carrboro, and Chapel Hill, NC. Despite excelling in the arts, I also had a strong curiosity and appreciation for the sciences. This led me to pursue and earn a degree in Biology at Appalachian State University. However, a year after graduating I returned to school to continue my art education. I then developed a career in graphic design and marketing until 2016 when I became a full-time mother to three children. Again, the urge to create would not leave me and I quickly began painting at home as a release and outlet for my creativity. It became obvious that I was meant to paint professionally for several reasons and my passion and inspiration for painting was overflowing. I paint almost every day and have been ever since. If I cannot create, I cannot sleep. My brain is constantly churning with inspiration and ideas at all hours of the day. It is my passion to create. How I came to my current style was an evolution that I allowed to occur naturally. After I began to sell my work, I began to explore many ways to paint. I dabbled with several mediums and ultimately became frustrated by trying to fit a mold. I didn't want my work to be like anyone else's. I wanted to do it my way and not be influenced by other artists. One day out of pure frustration with

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the brush and my current process I rummaged through my kitchen utensil drawers until I picked up a cake icing spatula. I began slapping paint on a canvas and the rest was history. I feel a sense of freedom with my methods, but also am very challenged by the lack of freedom caused by wielding paint with a large blunt, unforgiving object. Today I very rarely pick up a brush other than to prepare my canvases and sign my name. My process begins with an urge to paint usually organic shapes and various colors either from my mind or inspiration from a multitude of sources. Florals are my absolute favorite subject to paint. I'm not sure why I'm drawn to them verses other subjects to be honest, but I just roll with it and let the inspiration and paint flow. That is when I'm happiest painting.

I love playing with contrasting ideas in very subtle ways... simple vs complex, classic vs modern, clarity vs ambiguity, calmness vs agitation, order vs chaos, depth vs shallowness, negative vs positive, and light vs shadow. Most of the time I use acrylic paints but also enjoy the wet on wet process and challenges that oils present, so I do foresee more exploration with oils and waxes. Throughout my work is another medium underneath the paint. I use chalk to sketch out my paintings before applying paint. Sometimes it's very faint and other times it's applied heavily so that when the paint is scraped over it does not adhere to the surface which creates rough or thin areas. Then it is wiped away after the paint has dried and you wouldn't know it was used unless I told you. I love being outside and nature is a big influence for my art. My family is very supportive, and I paint whenever I can even on vacations and evenings when I should be resting. I just love it so much and am so thankful to be able to do so.