

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

## *About the Artist: Lynn Boggess*

Lynn Boggess is a plein-air landscape painter, who grew up on a farm near Parkersburg, West Virginia. Growing up in such a rural area allowed Boggess to roam creek beds and hillsides. He received a BA in Art Education from Fairmont State College in 1978 and an MFA in Painting from Cranbrook Academy of Art in 1980. From 1990 until 2007 Boggess was a Professor of Art at Fairmont State College. He spent years exploring phenomenology and metaphysics in art. Between the years of 1979 until 2000 the artist experimented with a variety of styles, from minimalist abstraction to postmodern-layered imagery. However, one day in the year 2000, during a break from the studio, Boggess decided to go outside to create some nature studies. He picked up a cement trowel on a whim, which then led to an entire summer of artistic exercises. His goal that summer was to create 100 small paintings to see where his new process would take him. Once those 100 paintings were complete, what began as a diversion became an obsession.

As an artist, Boggess braves the weather of all seasons, armed with canvases and cement trowels for brushes, to capture the beauty of nature in his unique landscapes. He presents a vision of nature free from the touch and presence of humanity. This vision transports viewers to the reflective and pure environments where Boggess' landscapes are created. His compositions fully reflect the diverse nature of West Virginia and its flora. During the reception of his May 2013 exhibition, *Lynn Boggess: Recent Paintings*, at Tyndall Galleries in Chapel Hill, NC; Marian J. Hollinger, the Curator of the James David Brooks Memorial Gallery at Fairmont State College said: "Boggess compels the viewer to contemplate each scene in turn, and finally the cycle of scenes: the lapse of hours; the alternating character of the rocks, of the trees and of the land; the turn of the season. The paintings themselves become the spaces they portray." She praised Boggess' style by saying: "In many large and small ways, Lynn Boggess' paintings reflect the entire tradition of landscape painting... Yet, the artist does not set out to make his work conform to a preconceived style; rather, he melds the tradition and his own experiences into a way of seeing and a style in landscape painting which is uniquely his own."

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In true plein-air practice, Boggess builds portable shelters designed for him to paint outdoors. His choice of the cement trowel, which 19th century Post-Impressionists used as a tool to pile on pigment, certainly introduces difficulty because one accidental flick of the wrist could damage the canvas surface, destroying days of work. After realizing those challenges, Boggess has mastered the exact angle of wrist-to-trowel-to-canvas destined to create a single leaf, a patch of water. or a tree branch. It's also interesting that the artist relies on solely primary colors, which he mixes himself on his palette as he paints. It's his method of controlling the colors instead of using premixed pigments.

Boggess is devoted to painting what he sees and having a direct interaction with nature, despite the weather. The artist immerses himself within each scene we see on the canvas, and it's translated to the viewer. For Boggess, nature is an embodiment of beauty, of what we now have and must protect.

Lynn Boggess has received numerous prestigious awards, including West Virginia Higher Education Art Educator of the Year in 2001 and a Lifetime Achievement Award at the West Virginia Governor's Awards in 2010. Boggess continues to live and work in West Virginia, solely devoted to painting.

## **Education:**

1980 – M.F.A., Painting, Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills, MI

1978 – B.A., Art Education, Fairmont State University, Fairmont, WV

## **Selected Awards and Honors:**

2010 Lifetime Achievement Award, WV Governor's Awards

2009 Friedland Juror's Award, National Park Service

2009 Best of Show, Tamarack's Best of West Virginia Art Competition

2001 West Virginia Higher Education Art Educator of the Year

1999 West Virginia Visual Artist of the Year

1997 West Virginia Governor's Award of Excellence in Painting

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## **Selected Museums and Collections:**

SAS Institute, Cary, NC

West Virginia Governor's Mansion, Charleston, WV

Eisai, Inc., Tokyo, Japan

## **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

### **Solo Exhibitions:**

2016 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2015 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2014 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2013 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2012 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2011 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2010 Umstead Gallery, Cary, NC

2010 Cooper Gallery, Lewisburg, WV

2010 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2008 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2007 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2006 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2005 Principle Gallery, Alexandria, VA

2004 Cooper Gallery, Lewisburg, WV

2003 Tyndall Galleries, Chapel Hill, NC

2002 Concrete Collaboration, Salisbury State University, Salisbury, MD

2002 Recent Work, Paintings and Drawings, Parkersburg Center for the Arts,  
Parkersburg, WV

2002 Recent Work, Oil Landscapes, Cooper Gallery, Lewisburg WV; The Gallery,  
Beaufort, SC

2001 Landscape Paintings: Collaboration with J. Boggess, West Virginia Wesleyan  
College, Buckhannon, WV; Salisbury State University, Salisbury, MD

2001 Landscape Studies, California University of Pennsylvania

2001 Figure Drawing, Concord College, Athens, WV

### **Group Exhibitions:**

2013 Boston International Fine Art Show, Principle Gallery Booth, Boston, MA

2011 Boston International Fine Art Show, Principle Gallery Booth, Boston, MA

2004 Tools as Art Invitational, Clay Center, Charleston, WV

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- 2001 Sunrise Museum of Art Invitational, Charleston, WV
- 2000 Tamarack Art Center Invitational, Beckley, WV
- 2000 Federal Building Gallery Invitational, Charleston, WV
- 2000 West Virginia Juried Exhibition, Charleston, WV