

Artist Statement

Angie Allen

My journey into the world of gathering and processing earth pigments began recently, but it was a natural shift as it merged my values of earth-impact-awareness, handcrafting, and spending time in places absent of a concrete matrix.

The fruit of this body of work arose in the context of a collective reckoning. These past few years we have witnessed the blossoming of colonial-settler's negative karma; seeds that were sown over the past few hundred years of ecological, cultural, and spiritual genocide. And so I turned my attention to the ground, the place from which all is born and returns to.

In many places the ground is concealed by a layer of concrete. Hidden beneath the concrete are timeless stories of ecological relationships and the wisdom of reciprocity. Spending time in places where the earth is exposed and natural rhythms felt, my body resets. Refining dirt into a pigment for painting is a kind of tribute to the earth, a meditation on place.

And so last spring I gave away all my acrylic paints and set out to make work determined by the ground. The process of being *determined by the ground* is central to this body of work. Most of the colors in this show are from rocks and dirt that were present in already disturbed roadsides and trails. After years of painting with smooth store-bought paints available in any hue, it took me time to get used to the textures and tones of foraged earth. Now I am comforted by these new parameters and unexpected variations, like I have settled into a deep living within my own means, within the limitations of what place has to offer.

October 2022