

SALLY RUDDY

Artist

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"Longing" © 1995, 36x48", Oil on Canvas

STATEMENT

It is with a sincere tenderness towards humanity and a reverence for nature that I create my paintings.

I live on a small almond ranch in Waterford, California, a quiet farming community. I was born in California, but raised in Reno, Nevada, where landscapes were barren and space was wide. Childhood summers at Lake Tahoe developed in me a great love of nature. In 1967, I returned to California. I graduated cum laude from California State University, Stanislaus, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art, with a concentration in painting. I also took post-baccalaureate studies at the College of Arts and Crafts, in Oakland, CA.

The expressionistic qualities of the works of Vincent Van Gogh inspired my work, especially in the early stage of my career. Other artists who have interested me are: Botticelli, Bonnard, Gauguin, and Alice Neel, and more recently, the decorative qualities of Gustav Klimt's work and Wolf Kahn.

I work both from direct observation of nature and from imagination. My work is about color and feelings. The thrill for me in painting lies in the countless possibilities of the interjection of a single stroke of color, upon color. I strive for spirituality in my work. The piece is not finished until it has a certain "presence" about it. For inspiration, I turn to my personal environment, reflecting my intimate world.

My art is my effort to capture a moment and preserve the sweetness of it. It's not just about me making art; it is about honoring this place in the world where I live.

- Sally Ruddy, Artist
2013