



KENISE BARNES FINE ART

AMANDA ACKER

STATEMENT

*Inside for the Winter*

The truth is I do not start from a grand idea or a thought-out plan. For years now I've worked from a simple voice, a nudge that says look closer, paint me. It almost feels outside of me, an impulse really. I endearingly call it my see it, like it, paint it phase.

I do not even consider if or how I can paint the thing or the scene beforehand. I just get to it. That is when a small wooden panel becomes a vast, path-less wilderness to traverse. A thousand tiny decisions and a whole lot of wandering. I often think, ha! I thought I could paint this?!, and I realize I have a mountain to climb. Many mountains. The places, people, and objects I am trying to paint become entirely abstract, and it becomes a complex puzzle to lure them into a new, painted version of themselves. The difficulty is one of the things that keeps me coming back. To be so challenged by such simple ingredients, paint and panel, is endlessly fascinating!

One painting leads to the next and they start to accumulate into a group, that is when you can start to see patterns, ideas, and narratives start to form. This group of paintings touches on time passing, seasons marching onward, the everyday-ness happening every day/week/year. Same vase, new flowers, racing home in the fading light, sunsets earlier and earlier, accumulations of school photos on the side of the refrigerator, plants out, plants in, vegetables!, vegetables made into soup, songs on the record player, life being lived. Above all else, there is a yearning to stay connected and be in conversation with the tangible world right in front of me.