

Bobbie Ann Howell

“My work with cut paper employs a combination of methods and materials I use in developing my drawings and sculptures. Spending time observing people and nature, leads me to the ideas that I hope to explore by creating patterns, and compositions that may be cut away with a knife, carving out the negative space building an array of images, shapes and shadows. Opening up the composition can create a sense of vulnerability, and exploit the strength and fragile nature of the paper. In some instances the work may feel as if it were disappearing or shattering. Images appear unexpectedly asking the viewer to shift their focus and invest a moment to look and explore the composition.

The drawings are influenced from the elements found within Nevada’s natural environment paired with concepts involved in the struggle of our humanity within all the worldly events that surround and touch us. *Friendly Pollinators VI – Sky Dance* is part of an ongoing series to remind us that the free movement of birds, bees, butterflies, the wind, the rain, women and children are all vital to the health of this world. The struggle of families and our natural world is intertwined and is a winding and fragile thing. As people find they must move across the land to seek a safe place to be, a safe place for birds, a safe place for children to listen to the rain, I hope we can remember that we must find it in ourselves to care for all it.”

Biography

Bobbie Ann Howell spent her youth in beautiful Lee Canyon, Nevada, a mountain community northwest of the Las Vegas valley. Continually inspired by a landscape that has dramatic contrasts from the desert valleys to high mountain vistas, from crowded urban centers to the open windswept spaces these spaces are a ever present element in her life and in turn in her art. Howell attended school in Indian Springs, NV, and graduated from Western High School in Las Vegas, NV. Her bachelor of fine arts is from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas. She received her master of fine arts in sculpture and drawing from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, Ill. and she has been fine arts faculty at Steven F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV, and the College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, teaching sculpture, foundry, drawing, life drawing, two and three dimensional design, and printmaking.

Her experience includes working in the arts and humanities as a cultural center director, museum director and educator, curator, collection design and management, and is currently a program manager for Nevada Humanities. She works and teaches workshops and classes for a wide range of students from her studio, B.E.S.T. Arts 4 U, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Her artworks are in public and private collections and exhibited and in regional and national exhibitions. Howell was part of the 2017 *ArtPop Street Gallery* where one of her artworks was displayed on a billboard along Interstate 15 in Las Vegas, NV, and in 2018 she was awarded the Nevada Arts Council Visual Art Fellowship Award.