

Erica Jane Huntzinger

## Biography

I was born and grew up in Elmhurst, IL. My father is a minister and lovely man who would sing regularly during services in his beautiful tenor voice. I was influenced by the glowing jewel toned colors of the sun drenched stained glass windows within our church sanctuary as hymns and sermons were voiced. It created a mesmerizing experience while staring into the large leaded glass windows all around. My lovely mother is a thoughtful and wonderful Psychologist who sculpted and drew and spoke about metaphor, relationships, the vast range of feelings we contain as well as the extraordinary beauty and strength of our world. My bright and funny brother and I bonded over our great pets and family vacations to Maine and Pennsylvania. Our family regularly debated and talked about correlations and connections, analogies, art, politics with singing, playing instruments and listening to a variety of music as a constant theme around us.

In college, I pursued the humanities, specifically painting and ceramics, and studied art and English Literature at Illinois State University and transferred into the painting department at the University of Illinois. In my last semester, I absorbed a new culture and studied art and Ecology in England at Wolverhampton Polytechnic. I graduated from The University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts and a Major in Painting. Desiring deeper meaning into art and the self, I pursued further education and received my Masters Degree in Art Therapy at The School of The Art Institute of Chicago. Through my education and personal experience I grew more aware and invested in my art work as well as the act of its creation. I lived and had studio space in the extraordinary city of Chicago for 15 years before moving to Wisconsin 7 years ago. Along the same lake as I found there, a space close to Chicago that had similar elements of nature that resonated with my parent's birth landscapes.

I have shown throughout the country, mainly in my home state of Illinois and Chicago, where several of my paintings are permanently installed at the following: Uncommon Ground (Devon and Grace locations), The University of Illinois at Chicago Children's Center, and Delilah's. I was co-owner of a gallery called The Gathering Place in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago. I have frequently shown professionally, most notably at The Chicago Cultural Center's "People of the Mud II: Another look at Chicago Ceramics", Silvermine Guild Art Center's "Craft USA", The John Michael Kohler Arts Center's "Eight Counties Exhibition", Prak-Sis Gallery's "Axis International Art Festival", and several shows with Margin Gallery. I live and work in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and commute often to Chicago and Milwaukee to exhibit my work.