

## NANCY LEIGH HILLIS

I always wanted to be an artist. I love the materials of art: the firmness of a hog bristle brush, the creamy thickness of oil paint, the texture of bark paper, the smell of plaster. I love stepping into the mystery of creation; not knowing what is going to happen and being astonished by the image that emerges. I'm drawn to exploring the reaches of the imagination and the orphaned off parts of the self. I like to see what bubbles up from the unconscious mind.

Recently, I've been exploring the California landscape, as well as abstract figurative oil painting. I am interested in painting alla prima (in one sitting), as well as employing expressive, impasto paint strokes, whether I am painting the figure or the landscape. Clint Watson, in "The Informed Collector" wrote that my figurative work embodies "a sense of archetypal forms deeply rooted with psychological and symbolic meaning".

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