

Sharon Malley

Dr. Sharon Malley is an artist working in Arlington, Virginia, as a member of the Columbia Pike Artist Studios. Her work is shown at Touchstone Gallery in DC, and in juried shows in the greater DC metropolitan area and mid-Atlantic states. The theme of most of her current abstracts centers on her deep reverence for nature and concerns about climate change. Her knowledge of the use of color is manifested in her vibrant paintings that viewers have described as “uplifting and joyful”. Her primary painting medium is oil, beginning a canvas or wood panel with a layer of acrylic and adhering rice paper and other collage elements to the background, followed by oil. She also works in oil and cold wax medium on wood panels.

Sharon’s professional career reflects her expertise in arts and disabilities. She holds a BS in art education, MA Ed in therapeutic recreation with emphasis on creative arts therapies, and Ed D in which she researched the effects of a visual arts program she developed on the mental health of youth and adults with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and intellectual disability. She was founder and executive director of Within Sight, a non-profit providing supports to artists with disabilities through classes and exhibits in Arlington. She has served as a national leader in arts education and special education at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, leading the team to assure that the National Core Arts Standards in k-12 education are inclusive of students with disabilities, and providing numerous presentations and workshops, nationally and internationally, on arts education and special education policies and practices.

- Publications include:
 - The Handbook of Arts Education and Special Education: Policy, Research, and Practices, co-edited with Jean B. Crockett (2018)
 - Students with Disabilities and the Core Arts Standards: Guiding Principles for Teachers (2014)
 - Examining the Intersection of Arts Education and Special Education, with Lynn B Silverstein, Arts Education Policy Review (2014)

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