

Bio for Tory Cowles
www.ToryCowles.com
@Tory Cowles

Grew up in Shelburne, Vermont and attended Bennington College.

Worked for five years as a carpenter and helps her husband with their organic farm in Frederick Co. Maryland.

Started painting representationally in college and continued while working and raising children. When her children began school full time, she started painting abstractly and made a decision to commit herself to making art full time.

Has operated a studio in the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria VA since about 2000 and has been an active member of Touchstone Gallery in Washington DC for even longer, now serving as president. She teaches abstract painting and collage at Glen Echo Park's Yellow Barn Studios in Glen Echo Maryland. She has shown widely in the Washington DC and NYC areas.

Her work first evolved from representational painting to abstract expressionist painting in the 1990's. Inspired by Robert Rauschenberg, her work began to break away from the rectangular canvas and she used her carpentry skills and many objects from their farm to make sculptures and to combine paintings with sculptures. In the last three years, she has been making sculptures and installations and inviting dancers to interact with them.

While still influenced by Rauschenberg, especially where it comes to integrating dance with installations or sculpture, lately she has been inspired by Angel Otero, Oscar Murillo, Jean Tinguely, Phyllida Barlow and Sara Sze.

Tory Cowles
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Background as a carpenter, woodworker, stonewall builder, representational painter. 25 years as an abstract painter, sculptor and art installation builder.

Education: BA - Bennington College 1972

Yellow Barn, Glen Echo Park, MD - Abstract Expressionist Instructor

Current Galleries and Upcoming Show

- BWAC Gallery, Red Hook, Brooklyn “Art Over Time” - Juried by Charlotta Kotik, former head of Modern and Contemporary Art, Brooklyn Museum. Opening July 10, 2021 from 1 – 6
- Virtual Solo Show Touchstone Gallery, May 2021. Artist talk: 5:00, May 5th.
- Presentation of latest work to Washington Sculpture Group’s Image Show – April 24, 2021
- Solo Show with Dance – BlackRock Center for the Arts, Germantown, MD - Delayed, date to be scheduled.
- Represented by Touchstone Gallery, Washington, DC
- Represented in Studio 7, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA

2020: BWAC Gallery, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY – “Wide Open” – Juried by Ylinka Barotto, Assistant Curator, Guggenheim Museum, May and June, 2019

BWAC Gallery, Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY - “Recycle” – Juried by John Cloud Kaiser, May and June, 2019

- McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA - “Strictly Painting” Juried by Gallery director Adah Rose Bitterbaum, June, 2019

2019: Touchstone Gallery – Sculpture Solo Show – “Hard Wired” – January, 2019

Plaxall Gallery – “Pairings” - Long Island City, NY – February, 2019

Sense Gallery – “Quietly Powerful” – Washington, DC – March, 2019

2018: BWAC (Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Gallery) Red Hook, Brooklyn, NY:

- “Color” – Juried by Marcela Guerra – Assis. Curator at the Whitney Museum
- “Recycle” – Juried by John Cloud Kaieser

- “Material Matters” – Juried by Artist and Journalist Melissa Stern
- Mosaic - Solo Sculpture Show – Invitational – Fairfax, VA

2017: McLean Project for the Arts – “Sculpture Now 2017” - McLean, VA
 Juried by Nancy Sausser, Director of McLean Project for the Arts
 Art League Gallery – “Open Exhibit “ - Alexandria Va -- Hon. mention
 Juried by J D Deardourff , artist and designer
 Glen Echo Park – “Sculpture Remix, 2017” - Glen Echo, MD
 Juried by Allison Nance, Director of International Arts and Artists
 (IA&A) at Hillyer, DC

2015: McLean Project for the Arts – June – “Strictly Painting” – McLean, VA -
 Juried by and given an award by Vesela Sretenovic, Senior Curator,
 Modern and Contemporary Art at the Phillips Collection, DC
 Plan b Gallery – “Anniversary Show” – Invitational – DC
 Plan b Gallery – “10” x 10” Show – Invitational – DC
 Delaplaine Arts Center – “Outloud Show” – Frederick, MD
 Artists and Makers Studios Gallery – Solo Show for their
 Grand opening – Invited by the director, Judith Heartsong

2014: plan b Gallery - December Year End Exhibit – Invitational - DC
 Art League Gallery – “Colorfield Show” - Juried by Timothy App, Artist and
 Professor at MICA. Given the Adam Wishnow award for the most creative
 and innovative piece

2013: Foundry Gallery – Invitational - Washington, DC
 Montpelier Arts Center – Outloud Show - Laurel, MD
 Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Center - "Alchemical Vessels" Invitational - DC
 Hill Center for the Arts, Solo Show – Invitational - DC
 plan b Gallery - 3 person Show – Invitational – DC

2012: Romany Kramoris Gallery – Featured Artist, Invitational - Sag Harbor, NY
 NIH Main Lobby – Solo – Invitational - Bethesda, MD
 West Winsor Art Center – Invitational - Princeton, NJ

2011: Torpedo Factory Artist of the Year Award. Juried by Harry Cooper, Head
 of Modern and Contemporary Art, National Gallery of Art. Wash., DC
 Target Gallery – Solo Show – Torpedo Factory, Alexandria, VA