

AMERICAN
art
COLLECTOR



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*Also Showcasing
Glass, Ceramics & Wood*



ANGIE RENFRO

Finding her way



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Angie Renfro's new land in the mountains in the small town of Howard, Colorado—on which she and her husband are building a livable treehouse—has incredible views, outlandish sunsets and vibrant colors that comprise a stark contrast to the dense cityscape of her second home in Chicago. Her new collection of about 20 oil on panel works at Wally Workman Gallery in Austin, Texas, in an exhibition called *As We Find Our Way*, includes vivid greens and yellows and bright reds and oranges that echo the new surroundings.

"Naturally, one's environment plays quite a large role in one artist's output, so I think my new works reflect that," says Renfro. "I'm really enjoying experimenting with new color combinations and using colors that usually don't find their way into my paintings. My newest series is more abstract, and thus I feel much freer to play around with color, which has been really fun for me."

Renfro says as she has grown in her career, she has learned to trust her instincts more and feels her work has become more expressive. She says her newest series of plant-inspired works is based on destruction being a catalyst for new beginnings, and about how loss can create beauty, taken from the idea of forest fires being a necessary event for regrowth. The pinecone-shaped works take cues from a type of pinecone coated in resin, which can only open and reseed when it is exposed to a forest fire.

"The series is about how sometimes your path gets rerouted for you without your consent, and challenges and change can occur as a result," Renfro says.

Landscape-inspired works such as *Where we begin* are looser and more organic departures from her more industrial landscapes. They are scenes influenced by the route between her new and old homes, of places including Nebraska and Iowa. The landscapes are void of humanity, but to Wally Workman Gallery partner Rachel



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- 1**
Angie Renfro
photographed in her
studio by Barbara Rudolf.
- 2**
Wanderlust,
oil on panel, 18 x 24"
- 3**
When you know,
oil on panel, 24 x 36"
- 4**
Where we begin,
oil on panel, 24 x 48"

Stephens, they include substantial emotion. “Angie has the ability to fill the loneliest scenes with beauty and strength,” says Stephens. “Her combination of thin and thick layers of paint causes your eyes to get lost within the surface and absorbs your mind into a sense of calm. I say again and again, she could paint anything, and I would be in love.” Renfro’s collector Joanne Inscore agrees her art quietly captures overlooked beauty.

“She is able to present scenes in a deeply peaceful fashion, which reminds us of the subtleties around us,” says Inscore. “She sees it, and she gives it back to us in palettes that are uniquely interesting and defining of her as an artist.” Renfro says she looks forward to the exhibition opening to hear viewers’ takes on her work, especially this series, which shows a new side to the artist. “Your reaction to a piece of artwork is

personal, based on your own experiences, personal aesthetic, etc.,” Renfro says. “I find it so interesting to hear a viewer’s take on my work because while I have my own intentions and ideas about my paintings, someone else can have an entirely different interpretation. This is why I love exhibition openings—I get the chance to learn about someone’s impressions and thoughts, or perhaps the memories a piece might bring up.” ●