© Best Version Media AMY ENGLEBRECHT

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ARTS & CULTURE CORNER BY KIRSTEN KOHLWEY

MAKERS SERIES

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SCIENTIST FROM TO ARTIST

Amy Englebrecht was an emerging artist at this year's Park City Kimball Arts Festival. Originally from Michigan, she had a successful career in science before making the transition to art. She studied geology at MIT, received a Ph.D. in geochemistry from Berkeley, and worked in nuclear forensics at the National Lab in Livermore. She came to Park City off and on to ski and now lives here with her husband in a remote neighborhood at 8,000 feet elevation, skiing to her house five months a year since the plow stops a mile away.

Amy dedicates her time to art. "It makes me so happy," she says, as she touches her heart. "When other people have the same response, it is very gratifying...It is energizing. I just want to go out and paint more." She paints every day and has done it for years. This is the year she decided to start sharing her art with the rest of us.

Amy's process is very spontaneous and intuitive. She played around with a lot of different styles. She doesn't plan these pieces out beforehand. Instead, she builds out a panel and starts building up layers. In the same piece she may use acrylics, oil, pigmented plaster and spray paint. A lot of the texture comes from pigmented plaster. She takes her paintings to the edge of chaos before bringing them together into a bright, happy piece of art.

Talking about the path that led to her current style, Amy says: "Some of it was learning to trust that intuition. There is always the chattering in your head. What if I ruin it? That kind of inner censor." She learned, "I am not going to ruin it. It makes me happy in the moment. The process makes me happy, and if someone else sees that and connects with that, all the better. That's fantastic." Most of her artwork features animals found in the Wasatch Back. Amy Englebrecht says, "I am just painting my neighbors." She does venture into other subjects when inspired to do so.

This year she exhibited her work at Miners 9 in March, June, and August. "The type of people that come here is such a cool cross-section of people. It is a











neat thing to be a part of. People who come through are specifically looking for local artists." Until October 16, you can see her work at the Utah Women Artists Exhibition 2024 "Celebrating Women Bold and Beautiful" at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center, 1355 West 3100 South, West Valley City. She joined the Create PC Gallery artist community in June and her art will be on display there through November.