

The image is a vertical rectangular artwork. The top half features a dark, moody sky with swirling clouds in shades of blue and grey. A thin, bright yellow arc curves across the upper right portion of the sky. The bottom half of the image is a vibrant, colorful underwater scene. It shows various marine life, including a large, translucent jellyfish with a purple and blue glow, and other smaller, colorful creatures. The water is a deep blue with hints of green and orange. The overall composition is layered and atmospheric.

Ada Pullini Brown

Luminous Depths

April 28 - May 19, 2024

jonna lee

About the Artists

ADA PULLINI BROWN

LUMINOUS DEPTHS THROUGH THE EMPYREAN FINDING CELESTIAL GEOMETRY.

My art has been centered in observational drawing and painting, both figure and landscape. During the Covid lockdowns of 2020, born out of a realization of the limited view I had from my courtyard, I embarked on a series of sky paintings. I sought to transcend mere depiction of landscape, aiming to convey the emotions of isolation and loss prevalent during that time. Through this series, I strive to imbue the traditional genre with contemporary relevance. Central to the series are floating geometric shapes — circles, squares, and rectangles — serving as focal points amidst expansive skiescapes. They symbolize the constraints of my vantage point, reminding me of the small fragment of reality I perceive. Yet, they also hint at the vastness beyond, inviting viewers to contemplate their own perspectives. Although my work is a study of a subject, it is also about choosing to paint in this time and place. It is about the transformative power of art in times of adversity, offering solace and introspection amidst uncertainty.

“Empyrean” and “Firmament”

Refers to the highest heaven in the cosmology of the ancients (Greek then Roman). It is into the Empyrean that Beatrice takes Dante in the *Divine Comedy*.

ADA PULLINI BROWN

Born in New York City, a graduate of the High School of Art & Design, with a B.A. in Studio Arts from Queens College of the City University of New York and an M.F.A. from the University of Houston, I first traveled to Europe as an undergraduate to attend the Sarah Lawrence College Lacoste School of the Arts. It was that summer in France that she fell in love with travel and plein-air painting.

I have been an artist-in-residence at the Vermont Studio Center, worked at Bob Blackburn's printmaking studio in NYC, and participated in three atelier programs and special portfolio projects at Self-Help Graphics & Arts in Los Angeles.

Before leaving NYC for Southern California, I worked for the art historian, Barbara Rose on the Journal of Art and for Thea Westrich Art Advisory Service.

From 1995-2016 I was the Director of ArTravel, a Travel Abroad Program, bringing artists and students to paint in Europe. I am now a retired Professor of Painting and Drawing at Rio Hondo College. I maintain an exhibition studio at the Brewery Artist Complex in Los Angeles, where I continue to participate in the twice-yearly Brewery Artwalk.

My work is held in private, corporate, and public collections including, Don Buchwald & Associates in NYC, the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas, the Visual Arts & Crafts Academy of Germiston, South Africa, the UC Santa Barbara Archives of Self-Help Graphics, and the Prints & Drawing Collection of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)

jonna lee

jonna lee, a Los Angeles native, received her BFA from Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, CA, and her MFA from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, CA. Lee works in a variety of media with her primary focus on sculpture and more recently on photography which has been a passion since her teens. A love of water informs a broad cross-section of Lee's work with sculpture that reflects the magic she sees underwater as an avid scuba diver, to the more recent work exploring shadows and reflections caught while photographing various aquatic surfaces and environments.

On Reflections

clouds lay on the water
the sky, submerged
I reflect on reflections
above and below

the clouds give no rejoinder
they wallow on the surface
ignoring my attention
so I muse upon the muse

she dances on the ether,
is she amused by my musing?
she gathers up the sunbeams
and breaks them in the deep

sky and water tumble while
I search among the fathoms
reflecting on reflections
musing on the muse