

NICOLE RENEE RYAN

Imagined Places & Misremembered Spaces

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Artist Statement

Nicole paints journeys through imagined spaces and misremembered places. These landscapes are based on her memories of memories. These landscapes include things remembered and things forgotten represented by half realistic and half abstract shapes, things real and unreal.

Parts of the landscape shift and become their own active subject, playing, moving, and breaking away expressing the loss of memory with imagination filling the gap.

Nicole work in oils and watercolors in an intuitive way. She is mis-remembering and imagining as she works. Nicole explores and creates a world through one small brushstroke at a time.



Artist Bio

Nicole Renee Ryan is a watercolorist, oil painter, and muralist from Mercer, PA. Ryan paints imagined landscapes, but surprisingly, she's not all that interested in traditional landscape paintings; she uses the landscape as a means to explore the concept of memory. Her interest in the importance and fallibility of memory arose during college while pursuing her degree in psychology from Washington & Jefferson College.

Her goal is to recreate a place she felt she had been at but can't quite pinpoint. As memories move from reality to abstraction, it becomes easier to misremember things, or think they may have just been a dream. This hazy area is Ryan's source of inspiration. She uses color and shape to create ethereal landscapes that illustrate the purgatory between memory and imagination, the real and the unreal.

In 2015 Ryan was awarded a residency at the New York Student's League at Vytacil and a fellowship at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. She was nominated for Pittsburgh Emerging Artist of the Year for 2016. In 2017 she was awarded a Flight School Fellowship through the Heinz Endowments. She has exhibited paintings in the Heinz History Center and The Butler Museum of American Art. Her works have been exhibited in NYC, Chicago, and Miami. Her last solo show, *Land of Little Thoughts and No Worries*, was hosted at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art.

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