

SUSAN HEUCK ALLEN Bio and Artist's Statement

Susan Allen is an Exhibiting member of the Providence Art Club and Monadnock Art. She graduated from Smith College and studied painting at Amherst College and the Cincinnati Art Academy. Early in her career as a classical archaeologist, Allen worked as illustrator and excavator on Mediterranean digs in Greece and Cyprus and later at the National Geographic Society. Allen resumed painting in the last ten years and has exhibited in faculty shows and galleries in Michigan, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, the subject of much of her work and where she had her first solo show.

Allen is a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Classics, Brown University and has taught at the Rhode Island School of Design, Smith College, Tufts, and Yale Universities as well as on a ship that circumnavigated the globe, known as Semester at Sea. A national and international lecturer, Allen has authored or edited three books, appeared in films for the History and Discovery Channels, lectured on Brown University Alumni and other cruises, and spoken twice at the Amos Fortune Forum. At home in New Hampshire forests, Allen is a forager for wild mushrooms. Since childhood, Allen has relished the challenge of distance swimming in open water. She summers in Harrisville where she swims laps across Silver Lake and on an island off the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where she braves the chill waters of Lake Huron. She won a silver medal swimming the Hellespont, from Asia to Europe, while researching her first book. Last year Allen completed a life goal, walking the 500-mile pilgrimage in France and Spain, known as the Camino of Santiago de Compostela during which she climbed the Pyrenees and painted along the way.

Not surprisingly, Allen draws her inspiration from immersion in nature. New to monotypes, Allen is a plein air painter, generally in oils, but also in watercolor. Her go-to subjects are land and lake scapes of New Hampshire, Michigan, Rhode Island, and Greece. She approaches painting as a meditation and aims to produce healing work that allows the viewer to contemplate and inhabit as a respite life's stresses.