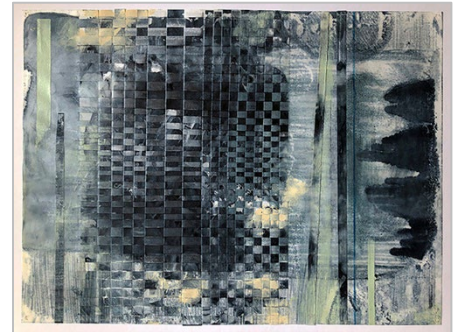


MELISSA RUBIN is a seasoned artist with over three decades of experience. She holds a BFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City and an MS Ed. in Arts Leadership from Bank Street College of Education. Melissa has participated in the Master Abstraction Residency at MASS MoCA and has been awarded grants from prestigious foundations. Her work has been featured in renowned publications and exhibited in various solo and group exhibitions, and is held in the permanent collection of the Museum of Encaustic Art in Santa Fe, NM, and in private collections in the United States and Europe.

Melissa's work reflects the ephemeral, transient nature of emotion and experience, incorporating elements of urban and rural living. She consciously works with materials that facilitate a sense of light, darkness, and mystery and she incorporates abstracted imagery that reflects her outer and inner landscape. She writes: *"I will be delving into the themes of growth and decay and the natural versus the human-made world. These themes reflect my personal transition from urban to rural living. My current work depicts the complexities and contrasts inherent in this transformation. By incorporating wax as a primary medium, I can capture the physical and metaphorical layers of my new environment. The inclusion of organic materials symbolizes the resilience and beauty of the natural world."*



Melissa's project grant funds will be used to support the creation of a body of work for her solo exhibition in the spring of 2024 in New York City. The grant will enable her to explore new artistic techniques and materials, particularly focusing on the themes of growth and decay, and the natural versus the human-made world. The funds will cover the purchase of encaustic medium, pigment sticks, substrates, equipment/tools required for working with wax and organic materials, studio space rental, professional documentation of the artwork, and the promotion of her solo show. Melissa aims to create a visually captivating and emotionally evocative experience for the audience, inviting them to reflect on their own relationship with the natural environment. By incorporating wax and organic materials into her artwork, she seeks to engage viewers in a visual dialogue about the transformative power of transitioning to rural life.



Melissa Rubin: Project Grant Recipient: October 2023
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