

About Merrie

As far back as Merrie can remember, she loved to create in a variety of mediums. Born and raised in Arizona, Merrie pursued a degree in Education eventually being offered a dream position teaching Art to elementary students. Merrie's relationship with her students was reciprocal—she inspired her students to find their creative voices and in turn, was inspired to pursue her art beyond the classroom. Finally, after fourteen years, Merrie retired from teaching to chase her passion full time. She studied and graduated from the Milan Art Institute's Fine Art Mastery Program in 2022 under the mentorship of Elli and Dimitra Milan and has since been pursuing her dream.

The subjects of Merrie's paintings reveal love within relationships—between self and others, God, and nature. A favorite poem called, "The Master Weaver," which her grandmother shared when she was a child, has become an integral part of how Merrie creates as an artist. She begins with freedom and abandonment using abstract mark making, layering collage, colors and allowing drips and much like how the poem relates creating a tapestry to life—the work becomes dark and messy. But only by adding the light, which Merrie accomplishes masterfully, does it all come together beautifully when her creations are finished with excellent nuances of light, shadows, and contrasting colors.

Merrie enjoys spending time with her husband and growing "grand" family. Most days you will find her working in her home studio that looks out to the desert mountains, quail, bunnies and an occasional road runner. Merrie's greatest inspiration is God—"His creativity is insurmountable in the world around us. I enjoy revealing His love and beauty through painting people, animals, flowers and landscapes, which for me, becomes a form of prayer."