

I am Natalie Smith, an artist currently located in the natural landscapes of Tahoe, California, where the wilderness is not just a backdrop but an integral part of my creative process. My journey in art began in the gardens and natural spaces where my grandmother shared her passion for the living world, teaching me to see the delicate balance and beauty in nature. These early experiences, combined with my mother's encouragement to explore and share every intriguing and beautiful aspect of the natural world, have shaped my artistic perspective.

My art is a personal endeavor to connect deeply with the environment. I make it a practice to be outdoors, experiencing nature in all its forms—whether it's the tranquil lakes at sunset or the dynamic ecosystems of the Sierra Nevada. Each outing is an opportunity to engage with my surroundings and capture fleeting moments with my Polaroid camera. These photographs are not just images; they are storied captures of time, serving as foundational elements for my larger canvas works.

In my installations and paintings, I strive to recreate the sense of wonder and immediacy that comes from direct interaction with the natural world. My approach involves a blend of traditional techniques and multimedia elements that draw viewers into a more profound, sensory experience. My art invites viewers to step into a space where they can engage with and reflect on their relationship with nature.

My creative process is a dialogue with nature, enhanced by the vivid, often fleeting images captured on my Polaroid. This method allows me to bring the spontaneity and serendipity of outdoor experiences into the gallery space. By enhancing these images with vibrant, saturated colors and integrating them into multimedia environments, I aim to convey the urgency of reconnecting with our natural surroundings.

I am eager to explore new landscapes and expand my practice in fresh, collaborative settings offering new insights that I can share through my art, along with deepening my lifelong engagement with the natural world and advocating for its preservation through my artistic expression. My art is a call to observe, engage, and protect the natural beauty that surrounds us. It is a reflection of my personal history, a dialogue with the environment, and an invitation to others to join in this crucial conversation.