

Bio |

Carly Allen-Martin has studied at Santa Reperata International School of Art in Florence, Italy, The European Academy of Fine Art in Trier, Germany, and Aoyama Gakiun University in Tokyo, Japan. She holds a BFA in painting from Texas Christian University, and has completed a residency at the Vermont Studio Center. Her paintings have been featured in the Dallas Morning News, LUXE editorials, Food Network Magazine, Celebrity Homes For The Holidays, and on the Cooking Channel network. Allen-Martin's work is collected publicly and privately both internationally and across the United States. Public Collections include BBVA Compass Bank and Texas Christian University. Allen-Martin is represented by Laura Rathe Fine Art Dallas, Laura Rathe Fine Art Houston, and Artspacell1 Gallery in Fort Worth. She lives and works in Dallas, Texas.

Artist Statement |

The message of my work is one of resiliency, optimism, authenticity, depth, and fearlessness. It is about over coming the oppression and walls we all face as human beings.

Color is the most important tool that I use to convey that message. You won't find a heavy weight or overpowering darkness in my work. I use bits and pieces of a darker palette because I have found that just like in life, on a surface, elements of darkness make the brights shine brighter and the colors read more true. Color is the most important aspect of my work followed by layer and attention to detail.

To me, for a painting to be successful, it needs to have depth and a trail of layers in how it came to be. To me that is the pathway to the individuality of each piece. It is the resume of where the work has been and how it came to be.

The materials I work with have given me the keys to unlock a surface of the painting that I previously longed for, but was unable to execute.

Drawing

is a critical element of my expression - I have been drawing these same lines on paper since I was able to hold a pencil. I love charcoal, because it is unapologetic. It doesn't fit into a neat, tidy box. It is messy, and bold, and

brings an element of grit to the surface of the piece. The soft pastels have the same effect, but with a more graceful, gentle approach. I love pastels, because there is a purity to their color and richness that I have not found in

another material. Oils are the most dominant material I use to deliver the message or narrative to the surface of the work. I have found that paper and panel are critical, because they allow me to create freely without having to

work around the fragility of the surface.

Overall, what I am interested in is creating honest, authentic, uplifting work that can thrive in interior spaces, and enriches the lives of both the artist and the viewer. I believe the world needs optimistic work, with which we interact with on a daily basis, that gently nudges us to live more boldly, more considerately, and more authentically as the individuals we were created to be.