

HART JAMES

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My work speaks of the energy of nature around us; the current of the water, the flow of the air, the rock formations that form the foundation under our feet and the movement of those foundations. The natural world is very simply alive. It is nothing to be taken for granted. It is as much a part of us, as our circulatory system.

Growing up on a farm, Hart absorbed the natural world around her small child, self. A backpack filled with empty jars, Golden Guide Books on Insects, Plants and Birds, she spent the daylight hours studying the beauty, the transience, the processes and cycles, the details of construction in nature.

Hart has come to realize that very few people have her background. In her early years on the farm, she spent all the daylight hours in nature. More than that, she grew up wandering the family farm of 150 acres, the neighboring farm of her grandfather's, 300 acres, the farms of two uncles, and the farms of the neighbors. It was more than 1500 acres of countryside and farmland. In these surroundings, she became attuned to the natural world in a way that seems more connected to earlier societies, than with our present-day world. She intuited natural processes that are just now being 'discovered' by modern scientists. Hart understood the infinity of space, the insignificance of man, the strength of the life force of nature. This was at the age of ten.

It is with this knowledge that Hart paints. She reaches into the landscape with her intuition.

Studying at the Art Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Art Institute, with Anne Truitt, Vera Berdich, and, Ed Pashcke, among others, and studying at Northwestern in art history and biology has made a strong background for Hart's further pursuit into the arts. She has attended artist residencies across the country, Oxbow, Morris Graves Foundation, and Seaside.

Visual memory comes out in her painting.