



# KNOWLES

Connections to the Land

## Artist's Statement

Cezanne, Matisse, Rothko, Wordsworth, T.S. Eliot and Walt Whitman serve as my creative inspiration. Journal writing also helps me to “see what I think”, accompanied by Beethoven, Chopin, Mozart and Grieg. In painting, I evoke an emotional response through juxtaposing color, texture and shape.

I often begin each painting by applying liquid acrylics on a damp canvas to establish a basic color pattern. As the colors begin to merge and blend, I capture the texture that naturally emerges. I do not premix colors and use a limited palette because I know what color will do. After the first layer dries, I add detail, add or remove paint and apply glazes that create new colors. Sometimes, I paint over some areas with opaques to contrast and calm. At first, viewers see no recognizable images. A closer look, however, often reveals personal images and meanings depending upon the viewer's experience. The titles come to me midway through the process and control the final piece. The paintings, then, assume a life of their own.

I have lived in Phoenix since 1961 after receiving a B.S. Degree in Art and Journalism and an M.A. in English from Indiana State University in Terre Haute. I began painting full time after retiring from high school and college teaching in 1995. Since then, I have exhibited frequently in the Valley, New Orleans, San Francisco, Houston and Santa Fe and have won local and national awards. Permanent collections include Binney & Smith, Easton, PA; City of Phoenix Municipal Court Print Collection, The Shemer Art Center and Museum Association and numerous private collections.

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Change Ahead 16" x 72" Acrylic on Canvas

## Connections to the Land

All Life is dependent upon the land. I'm especially interested in what lies beneath. I imagine layers of "busyness" under my feet as I walk on city cement, see weeds poking through cracks, intruding upon desert rock landscapes—a far cry from the lush meadows of my Midwest childhood. In "Connections to the Land" I confront my imagination, my environment of what was and what is.



**A New Eden** 36" x 72" *Acrylic on Canvas*

**I Am**

Of molecules and mountains  
Of "I think" and "I feel"  
Of blueberries and oatmeal  
Of sons and wives  
Of sons and fathers  
Of sons and mothers

Of tolerance and impatience  
Of crunch and puree  
Of grief and happiness  
Of boredom and activity  
Of loneliness and togetherness  
Of conversation and silence  
Of youth and old age.



**Upon Closer Inspection** 36" x 48" *Acrylic on Canvas*

The incredible lightness of being.

**Summer in  
Paradise**

60" x 40"

*Acrylic on Canvas*

“...to live deliberately,  
to front only the  
essential facts of life,  
and to...learn what it  
had to teach.”

– *Thoreau*





**Openings** 60" x 48" Acrylic on Canvas

“It is only when people begin to shake loose from their preconceptions from the ideas that have dominated them that we begin to receive a sense of opening, a sense of vision.”

– *Barbara Ward*

## Order in Chaos

*48" x 24" Acrylic on Canvas*

I create my own prisons, pace in  
my personal confinements:  
boundaries set by experience, set  
by peers, set by intuition. Order  
in chaos.





**Stratum** 48" x 48" *Acrylic on Canvas*

My paintings are like Jazz: roots in the South, improvisational, underlying themes, rhythmical, emotional, intensely colorful, familiar at times, dissident at others.



**Passages** 24" x 36" Acrylic on Canvas

When all of life's issues are settled,  
What is left?  
A look inward  
To seek the "Haunt" who lives within.



**Leaving Albuquerque** 24" x 36" Acrylic on Canvas

“Impermanence, cause and effect, memory, suffering and desire: these are the precious nature of Life.”

– *David Guterson*



**Remnants** 36" x 72" *Acrylic on Canvas*

“Life is quickly sown with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to pass quickly through them. The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater their power to harm us.”

– *Voltaire*



**Under Montmartre** 24" x 20" *Acrylic on Canvas*

Dawn in front of Sacre Coeur: hushed silence with an occasional drift of nuns' voices in prayer. A quiet before the city awakens. All of Paris spread out before me: misty, magical.

I sense the catacombs, the sewers, the maze, the life underground—long hidden.

A driving force, a haven for the repressed.

## **Beneath**

60" x 40"

*Acrylic on Canvas*

Below the calm of  
desert mountain  
majesty lies an  
interdependent  
organization of  
roots, organisms  
busy weaving,  
tunneling, layering,  
carving entrances,  
exits.





**Native Tears** 36" x 48" Acrylic on Canvas

Since 1961 I have been trying to de-program the stereotyping and bias routinely conveyed in the small Midwest community of my youth. Like it or not, my parents and extended family did influence me, albeit subconsciously.

As I completed *Native Tears* and *Remnants*, I realized I was expressing my own sadness that I can do little to stop or change social ills: a grief really too deep for tears.



**From Above** 12" x 12" Acrylic on Canvas

Nothing really is a something.



**Interruption** 60" x 24" Acrylic on Canvas

“Fidelity to oneself is the very theme of living an unfragmented life, a connection that must be made before any other can be made.”

– *George Sand, nee Aurore Dudivant*



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design by **studioevolve**

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