

Marlena Wyman

Marlena is a third generation prairie woman, raised on the family farm near Rockyford, Alberta. She has lived in Edmonton since 1974, and received her degree in Visual Arts/Education at the University of Alberta. She has lived in the Parkallen neighborhood for 20 years.

Marlena's artwork has been exhibited in local and Canada-wide galleries and is included in private and public collections in Canada and the United States.

History is an inspirational source for Marlena's creative work, fed in part by her past work as Photo, Film and Sound Archivist at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

She explores the concepts of memory and remembrance, mortality and healing, and our relationship with the natural world and material culture.

A month-long artist's residency in Newfoundland in 2006 took her to the province's beaches and cemeteries; settings that Marlena has always found to be restful and serene.

Marlena was inspired by the contrast of delicate shells and flowers found alongside the rough and wild Atlantic Ocean, and in the locations of the cemeteries – often along an ocean cliff where the headstones were oriented to face the sea.

Marlena's painting medium is encaustic (beeswax) and mixed media. Seeds and flowers that she found at the seashore as well as finds from local flea markets were incorporated into her paintings. Each of these environments offered up memories, both of past Newfoundland lives and of the time that she spent there.

The residency brought changes to Marlena's artwork and creative practice. As art reviewer Gilbert Bouchard stated in an Edmonton Journal article "Some of the changes to her work were relatively small, like a shift in her colour palate and a desire to paint more landscape vistas. Others were more profound, like the more protracted exploration of life-and-death issues, the relationship between humans and the natural world and the vicissitudes of memory."

Title: *Pearly Everlasting*

Artist: Marlena Wyman

Medium: Encaustic, Fireweed seed pods, Pearly Everlasting flowers, vintage crocheted doily, ink on paper

Title: *Henrietta Jane*

Artist: Marlena Wyman

Medium: Encaustic, seaweed, vintage lace

<http://theprairieline.wordpress.com/>

<http://marlenawyman.com/>