

Artist Statement

The abstract, visual vocabulary of my work is based on observations and experiences in the wild, rugged landscapes of northern New Mexico where I live, and from time spent in other remote places in the world. While I am moved by the visual drama of these landscapes, I am also drawn to their more subtle aspects of intricate, organic color and texture, and the luminosity of the atmosphere. As I paint, I relate these visual impressions to personal memories, thoughts, and emotions, and use this language in combination with purely abstract elements. The result is far from literal depiction and much more of an inner landscape.

My imagery is developed intuitively, and so an important aspect of my process is responding to evolving colors, shapes, and textures as I go. My materials are primarily oil paint and cold wax medium, a paste-like substance that adds body and luminosity to the pigment. The complex surfaces of my work are the result of building up many layers of this mixture with various tools and techniques, as well as selectively scraping and dissolving areas to reveal underlying layers.

Abstracting from landscape has taught me what I want my paintings to be—strong yet nuanced, bold yet intricate, and possessing a quiet, contained energy. I've been painting professionally for over 40 years and remain challenged and energized by the depth of my studio practice.

— Rebecca Crowell
