



CHRISTINE FORTNER

Where most people would see a tree or a flower, artist Christine Fortner sees harmonious compositions formed by the shapes of branches, leaves, and the spaces between them. She uses the “silhouetted patterns” she finds in nature to create simple compositions that highlight the interplay between 2-dimensional pattern and 3-dimensional shape rendering.

Fortner discovered her love for art early in life. She was raised in Maryland and as a senior in high school, she was accepted into a prestigious intensive study of portraiture at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC. She went on to major in art at Arizona State University and met her husband while living in Arizona. After her marriage, Fortner moved to Anchorage, Alaska, where she lived for 35 years and raised her family while working at a telephone company, teaching painting and building her art business. She became well-known for her watercolor still life's and interpretations of the wild Alaskan landscape. Most of Fortner's subjects are plant life, but she has recently begun including animals whose shapes support her strong compositions.

Her paintings have been published in several books, on watercolor and acrylic. She belongs to a number of national arts organizations and is a Signature Member of the International Society of Acrylic Painters and the Alaska Watercolor Society. Her work was selected for the M. Graham Award in the 2018 International Society of Acrylic Painters and she invited to be an Artist Representative for M. Graham & Co. Before leaving Alaska, she was featured in the Alaska State Parks 2016 Artist in Residence Program at Ernest Gruening State Historical Park.

Fortner and her husband now live in Idaho Falls. When she is not painting her abstracted interpretations of nature, Fortner can often be found cooking, traveling, or spending time with her grandchildren.