

Buell ...

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"When I got out of school I had several shows in the Bay Area throughout 2001 and 2002. At the end of 2002 I moved away. I got tired. The Bay Area is very expensive."

Buell's predominately large scale works are on display in private collections and corporations in the United States and Europe.

Her success is due in part to the fact that her paintings evoke different emotions, sometimes peaceful, sometimes explosive in what she describes as organic rather than geometric patterns.

Though Buell's marriage fell apart, her art did not, and the sensation of those early years when painting deeply touched her heart with the soul feeling not only remained with her, but grew stronger.

"In 2002 and 2003 I commuted mostly between Europe and the United States, going two and three times a year to Europe. These were transitional years for me. I was actually done with California but I did not want to return to Switzerland because I had been in the United States for so long and I had changed too much. I was used to this lifestyle, the freedom, the culture and the space. Switzerland is smaller than Montana and has 7 million people. It is very dense. I didn't feel like I could I could go back."

Buell makes her money at this time in Italy and in Spain. "Two or three times a year I fly over there and work for Ikea. It is a huge Swedish furniture company. They are all over the world. You have them in the states, just not in Montana.

"I fly over there and set up new stores. We have to go into these empty buildings that are 70,000 to 80,000 square feet and we have to put up all the shelves and fill in the merchandise. There are 20 of us from dif-

ferent European Countries. We meet in Switzerland and then we drive. It is only Spain and Italy where we are going. It is always for a month."

Buell's art is classified as contemporary painting. Some is on canvas. Some is on paper. "I am not a commercial or traditional painter," Buell says, "I am not a brush painter. I am not an easel painter. I work flat and I use many tools."

In April this year, toward the end of her time at the Refuge, Buell was doing a silver leaf on paper with oil paint and copper leaves on paper with oil paint.

"It is always the same technique with a different approach from a different angle," Buell added, "I manipulate the liquid oil paint until I achieve the composition into the structure that I want."

Buell feels she has accomplished at the Artist's Refuge what she came to do. "I have 35 to 40 new paintings in six months. In six months I have painted a whole new show. All the materials that I brought, I used.

"Basin is very quiet," Buell added, "You don't have the distraction that you have in big cities. I've always lived in big cities, in Zurich, Paris, New York and Oakland. I got tired of it. In the Bay Area you have the sirens all the time. The even attack you or vandalize. Here you don't even have to lock the car. And you can focus on your art work. You can concentrate. And if you want to socialize you can mix with the locals or the other Artist Refuge people."

Buell will have a show in Italy in the fall. In June she will travel to Europe to work with her team to prepare a new store for opening.

"I am thinking about settling in Montana, even if it is just two or three years. I found painting later in life. With dancing you retire by the time you are 36, but painting you can do for the rest of your life."