

artist's statement



So much of life is about figuring out when to take control and when to let go—to allow the universe to shape the next moment. Ultimately, control yields accuracy and predictability, while letting go invites the unexpected, the fresh stroke. I gravitate to watercolors because each painting is a reflection of this exercise: the dance of intention and accident. As I watch the paint pool and blend, the paper's texture redefines the intensities, the shifting air and surface angle paint in unpredictable directions. The resulting aesthetic is my abstract vision tempered by concrete elements—making painting an act of faith.



Adding a poem to my paintings shares my poetry on a visual level. In doing so, I narrow the possibilities for interpretation. A mood is thrust on the viewer—which heightens the “accuracy” of how my words are interpreted, but possibly narrows the viewer’s internal dialog regarding the piece. So is communication increased or diminished? How many other possible interpretations might the poem have provoked? How many other messages would the art convey? And while the way a poem is read out loud often helps literary interpretation, this series demonstrates that a poem, returned to the page, can work with image to polish its “voice.”



emily thornton calvo

visual art exhibitions

October 2017	Poems & Paint Green Mill Jazz Lounge Chicago, IL	April 2004	Gallery 9 Elmhurst, IL
May 2017	St. Charles ArtsFest Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, IL	July 2001, 2002	L'art de Fontenay Le Comte Fontenay Le Comte, France
June 2016, 2017	Elmhurst Arts Summer Show Elmhurst Art Museum Elmhurst, IL	instruction	
June 2016	<i>LEXICON</i> Zhou B Art Center, 2nd Floor Chicago, IL	2009 - Present	Ed Hinkley Studio, Chicago, IL
May 2016	<i>Flora & Fauna</i> August House Gallery Chicago, IL	2013	Palette & Chisel Chicago, IL
April 2016	Art Exhibition and Performance <i>Not Your Grandma's Poetry</i> Harold Washington Library Chicago, IL	2000 - 2001	Oak Park Art Center, Oak Park, IL
March 2016	<i>Poetry with Vision</i> Loyola University, Chicago, IL	affiliations	
August 2016	How We Move Expressions Graphics Oak Park, IL	Woman Made Gallery	
May 2015	Art Exhibition and Performance Women and Children First Books, Chicago, IL	Chicago Artist Coalition	
October 2014	Shambhala Sun Fundraiser Online Gallery/Auction	Chicago Artist's Resource	
October 2010, 2013, 2014 2015, 2016	Waterworks Ed Hinkley Studio Chicago, IL		
December 2013	Dr. Holiday's Artful Cures August House Gallery Chicago, IL		
January 2013	Shambhala Sun Fundraiser Online Gallery/Auction		
May 2011	Women Made Gallery Words & Pictures Chicago, IL		
December 2009	John J. Shedd Aquarium Chicago, IL		

