

**Lori Leachman**  
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**Profession:**

Professor of the Practice, Economics Duke University Durham, NC	1998-present
Associate Professor of Economics Northern Arizona University Flagstaff, Az.	1993-1998
Assistant Professor of Economics Winthrop University Winthrop, SC	1989-1993

**Art Classes:**

Durham Arts Council- Ceramics, Leanora Coleman	Summer 1996
Carborro Arts Center- Collage, Linda Passman	Spring 1999
Drawing, Linda Passman	Fall 1999
Durham Art Council- Welding, Jim Alexander	Fall 2001
North Carolina Central University- Painting 1, Beverly McIver	Spring 2009

**Juried Shows:**

Durham Art Guild Annual Juried Show, juror Joyce Tenneson	2002
Durham Art Guild Annual Juried Show, juror Carrie Przybilla	2003
Durham Art Guild Annual Juried Show, juror Petah Coyne	2006
Durham Art Guild Annual Juried Show, juror Magdalena Comps-Pons	2009

**Shows:**

Naomi's Studio and Gallery	Feb. - March 2016
Bull City Art and Framing	Sept.- Oct. 2015
Craven Allen Gallery, Spring Show	March - May 2010
N.C.Central Student Show with Beverly McIver (at Craven Allen)	April - May 2011
Fall Show at Nancy Tuttle May Studio	Oct - Dec. 2011
Fall Show at Nancy Tuttle May Studio	Oct - Dec. 2013

**Representation:**

Craven Allen Gallery and Frame Shop  
Naomi's Studio and Gallery  
Bull City Art and Frame Shop

## **Lori Leachman** **Artist Statement**

I have been interested in art and color all of my life. Through the years I have experimented in a variety of mediums beginning with watercolors and ceramics and eventually moving into work with acrylic, collage and metal. In 2003 I was fortunate enough to have Nancy Tuttle May become a friend and mentor in the arts. She invited me into her studio to paint and talk with me about the creative process. Through that dialog and tutelage I found that what most captivated me in art was color and texture. So, in 2009 I enrolled in a painting class at NCCU with Beverly McIver. That class required that the students work in oil. Hence, over the last nine years I have been painting in oils. I have found that I love the lusciousness of oils and the ability to create truly rich, complex colors and textures.

Portrait painting was the focus of the NCCU class since that is Ms. McIver's subject of choice. After finishing that class I gave myself the assignment of painting fruits and vegetables for the next year. The result of that assignment was a series of shows (Craven-Allen, joint show, Spring 2010; Show with Nancy Tuttle May at her studio, Fall 2013). More recently I decided to refocus my painting efforts on nature. "Desert Blooms," "Sonoran Sunrise and Sunset," and "Aspens Through the Seasons" are the result of that effort. "Desert Blooms" captures cacti in various settings and times of day. I have been drawn to cacti as a subject matter due to their unfriendly nature and uncommon beauty. In my cacti paintings I am trying to convey the idea that even the most difficult and off-putting things can be a source of great beauty, joy and/or fulfillment; the choice of seeing beauty or seeing the beast is up to the viewer. This series was the subject of a show in the Fall of 2015 at Bull City Art and Framing. The Sonoran Sunrise and Sunset Series was exhibited in a show in the spring of 2016 at Naomi's Studio and Gallery. In this series I am once again working on capturing different desert light, and conveying the beauty of a very inhospitable environment.

I am currently working on the Aspens series. This series is another endeavor to capture the beauty in the narley. In this series I have been experimenting with painting with a palette knife in order to achieve the texture I desire in the bark. Most of this series has been painted in Buffalo this past summer. I plan to continue working on this series through the fall and into the spring of 2019.

In all of my work the focus is on the colors and textures of the subject matter. In my first series, "Onions Make Me Cry," I painted purple onions. I worked with the same basic patterning and background in order to give this series a sense of continuity. The fabric pattern in the background allowed me to further experiment with color and to develop the use of light and shadow to create depth. In my second series, "Tangerines in Winter," I used a shiny black tabletop to place the tangerines on in order to capture their reflections in different kinds of light. In "Desert Blooms," the skin of the cacti provide the textural

element. In the “Sonoran Sunrise Sunset” series, it is the desert itself that provides the texture. The leaves and the wonderful bark of the Aspens are the textural focus in that series. Essentially, the larger challenge has been to create a body of work composed of the same basic elements in which the individual pieces evoke different feelings and reactions.

I anticipate that moving forward I will continue to paint elements of the desert landscape. I have a home in Sedona, Arizona where I spend 3-4 months a year, hence my interest in the desert. I find that I am truly awed by the geography of it, the geology of it and the ecology of it. The quality of the light and the sense of space are both things that I am trying to capture in my most recent three series.