

Terrie Koles

Artist Statement

Painting has always been my way of understanding the world.

I received my MFA in Painting from the New York Academy of Art, where I studied with artists including Eric Fischl, Vincent Desiderio, and Nelson Shanks. There I developed a deep respect for traditional methods of painting, the study of anatomy, and the discipline of careful observation—foundations that continue to shape my work today.

Although my career later took me in several creative directions, painting remained the quiet thread running through my life.

Today, working from my studio in Washington, Virginia, I paint primarily in oils, creating representational work rooted in observation. I am fascinated by human nature and by the quiet narratives revealed through gesture, expression, light, and atmosphere. The more I paint, the more I realize that seeing is a skill that is never fully mastered. Every subject offers another opportunity to look more carefully, to understand more deeply, and to discover something unexpected.

My hope is that each painting invites the viewer to slow down, spend time looking, and perhaps notice something they might otherwise have missed.