



# Morgan Johnson Norwood

Arlington, Virginia

## Artist's Statement

This work demonstrates my fascination with the scrawling lines of naked tree branches, the whispering movement of cast shadows, and the sculptural crevices of stones and discarded seed pods. A background in biology has left me with a keen eye for visual relationships between the natural world and human physiology; including, cellular structure, nerve endings and biological and emotional aspects of parenthood. Likewise, these visual elements evoke connections with pain, destruction, and rebirth. I feel that this collection of paintings falls squarely between realism and abstraction, exploring the specific boundary between the two in the natural world.

*I'm deeply fascinated by the shapes and shifting of shadows and of other forms in nature- roots, seed pods, and other small places for creatures to hide.*

The paintings are created by applying many thin layers of oil paint to slowly build the image. This process of "veiling" creates an ethereal quality which reminds me of the momentary dance of shadows on a forest path. Under the layers of paint, I include scrawled markings and personal symbols. I like the rich and tactile quality these materials and processes provide, connecting me further to our planet, and to one another.

## About the Artist

Morgan studied art and art education at Mercer University and at the University of Georgia (BFA), and museum education at The George Washington University (MAT). Her award-winning paintings, sculptures, and works on paper are currently collected in the United States, Canada, England, Spain, and Qatar. Exhibitions include Artomatic 2008 and 2017; US Geological Survey headquarters and the JoAnn Rose Gallery, Reston; and solo exhibitions at ArtSpace Herndon, Reston Association, and North Gate Vineyard in Purcellville. Her published illustrative work includes features in Fit Yoga magazine, and she has illustrated two books, *Hip Tranquil Chick: On and Off the Yoga Mat*, by Kimberly Wilson; and *Gorgeously Green: 8 Simple Steps to an Earth-Friendly Life*, by Sophie Uliano.

Raised in Atlanta, GA, Morgan has found herself at home in the Washington, DC area for over a decade. Morgan has spent a significant amount of her career focusing on contemporary art and education through her work with adult and school programs in the museum setting at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, and the von Liebig Art Center, Naples, FL; and in the classroom, teaching visual art to preK-5th grade students formerly at John Adams Elementary School in Alexandria, and currently at Campbell Elementary School in Arlington. She lives in Arlington with her two daughters, and when not teaching, creates at the Columbia Pike Artist Studios.

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