

## **Alethea Eriksson - Artist Statement, 2020**

I am a contemporary Swiss abstract artist based in Baden, Switzerland.

I was born in South Africa where I did a Bachelors Honours in History of Art at the Universities of Natal and South Africa. We immigrated to Switzerland in 1986 where I worked in foreign language training for 25 years. Since 2012, I have dedicated my time to my artistic development and practice. This has included doing intensive self-study, a year at the Zurich School of Art and Design, plus numerous classes and workshops with local and international artists. In 2019 I was selected for a residency in Iceland. In 2020 I did the intensive on-line course Creative Visionary Program with Art2Life.

My inspiration comes from what I find to be beautiful, primarily in wild places in nature but also in my urban environment. To me, beauty has an inner energy, intensity and evocativeness and, at the same time, is simple, reduced, even minimalistic. This I experience as having a soothing yet energizing power, which I try to capture in my paintings.

I work in acrylic, oil mixed with cold wax or a combination of the two, in other words mixed media. I often start with collage elements, bitumen or pastes made of sand, marble dust or ash to give texture or inner life and history to the canvas or wood panel.

My paintings have been shown in group- and solo shows in Switzerland and are in collections on three continents.

I am a member of the various artists' groups, the international Creative Artists' Club, Kunstgruppe Schweiz, a local one as well as the Zürich group, Artischock and the Swiss artists' association, Visarte.