

AUSTIN

ABSTRACT BEAUTY

As Austin artist Meredith Pardue continues to put paint to canvas, the design world continues to clamor for more.

By Becca Hensley
Photography by Sandy Carson

WHERE THE ART IS
Meredith Pardue creates her nature-inspired paintings in a sun-filled home studio in the Hill Country. "Art makes sense of pieces and fragments," she says. "It's a reflection of what is there."

Meredith Pardue's paintings evoke the changeable nature of clouds as they transform before your eyes. Influenced by the "literal and spiritual textures of the South," the Louisiana-born, Austin-based artist ponders universal themes in her works.

In pieces such as "Epic Tides of the Mother Ocean" and "Lagoon at Xel Ha," she dazzles with overlapping hues and color combinations as harmonious as the multitonned sea. Little wonder, then, that Pardue's paintings—abstract, awash in organic shapes and often botanical-based—hang as statement pieces in prominent commercial locations and stately homes across the globe.

In Texas, for example, you'll find her works at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, in the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation in Austin and in the BBVA Compass Bank's corporate headquarters in Houston. You can also see them in her new book, *Paint* (\$58 to \$72, blurb.com), a substantial collection of paintings created between 2013 and 2015.

Critically acclaimed and highly sought after, the classically trained artist rarely paints on consignment.

Her inspiration comes as gauzy dreams or gossamer visions of altered reality. "I start with random marks, usually a drop or drip of ink or acrylic paint," she says. By the time she finishes, the artist has addressed "nature, love and the mysteries of the divine."

Pardue is represented by Jean-Marc Fray (jeanmarcfray.com) in Austin and Laura Rathe Fine Art (laurarathe.com) in Dallas and Houston. Outside of Texas, she is represented by Kathryn Markel Fine Arts in New York, Ann Connelly Fine Art in Baton Rouge, La., and Bryant Street Gallery in Palo Alto, Calif. She also sells directly from her studio.

An exhibition at Laura Rathe Fine Art in Dallas opens Sept. 12 and runs through Oct. 10.

meredithpardue.com