

**Alicia Armstrong****Education**

Alicia Armstrong earned a Bachelor of Fine arts degree with a concentration in oil painting from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and stood out as the winner of the Fine Art department's academic leadership award.

After a decade working in traditional painting and photographic portraiture, she is now concentrating on producing more abstract works, pieces imbued with symbolic imagery...

**Selected Collections**

The University of North Carolina Lipinsky Auditorium  
Asheville NC Bravo

**About the work**

Alicia Armstrong paints memories - longings and dreams... inconsistencies.

A single work often incorporates questions posed by contrasts - both literal and conceptual - and captures the inescapable realities of life: joy and suffering, light and dark, closeness and distance.

The images on her canvases are contemplative and sometimes playful; however, they boldly take on the constructs and confines of postmodern life. Armstrong's work is often figurative and segmented, influenced by both her life's trajectory and the conundrums posed by the compartmentalization and overstimulation we all experience daily.

The vicissitudes and joys she observes appear often, from the complexity of familial bonds like motherhood, to the beginnings and endings of relationships.

Armstrong paints primarily on wood panels using graphite, oil, and charcoal; her process produces highly textural works, whose layers convey the beauty and struggle of movement and transition, capturing moments.

A self-described "mark maker," It's easy to identify with the struggles of her figures: a man whose bottom half is a wheel, engaging in a Sisyphean struggle up a vaguely delineated mountain, paired with disembodied boats seemingly floating toward an uncertain destination; siblings pushing and pulling at each other over a gulf, or perhaps a lifetime. Many seem to covey a woman pondering choices.

Armstrong's canvases pose questions, yet inject comfort into discomfort; they encompass the archetypal play between light and dark, but encourage viewers to formulate their own answers, rather than attempt correct interpretation. This openness is a hallmark of the artist and her work; she not only presents images and ideas, but intimates unspoken possibilities.