

## Jane Shoenfeld Biography

In 1987, I made the journey west to New Mexico because of the natural beauty and open space. I've lived longer in Santa Fe than anywhere else.

I grew up in Maryland and Washington, DC. My parents were New Yorkers. We were a low income, high creativity family. My Mother was a successful short fiction writer at a time when women were encouraged to be housewives. My Father was a journalist and a painter. I got scholarships to Pratt Institute and moved from DC to Brooklyn, NY in the late 60's.

I've experienced times when I was strongly focused on exhibiting and selling and times when creating was primary and the marketing part of the process was less significant. Because of what I have to communicate at this time, exposure for my work is extremely important. I exhibit my work nationally and in Santa Fe, where I am currently represented by The Strata Gallery. A recent series of my pastels, in response to the prophetic poem "The Second Coming" by W.B. Yeats, was exhibited in a 2022 two person show at The Visual Arts Center of the Santa Fe Community College.

I love my life in Santa Fe. I live with my husband, poet, Donald Levering, and have a beautiful studio where I earn my living by painting and teaching art. My poetry is published in literary journals and my office where I write my poems is on the other side of the studio door. I cross a ceramic tile threshold and move from images in words to worlds of images. I am very interested in dreams, and the imagination .

I balance this immersion in the inner depths by spending time painting outside. I love plein air painting. It is focused and joyful to be making art outside in nature. I moved to New Mexico so many years ago, because I loved the spaciousness of the landscape. I still do.

I also teach art both in the studio and outdoors and find this very satisfying. I began teaching residential plein air workshops at Ghost Ranch (where O'Keeffe lived and worked) in 1992. I have also taught workshops at The Esalen Institute and through the O'Keeffe Museum. My background includes a BFA in Fine Arts and a Masters Degree in Art Therapy and Creativity Development from Pratt Institute. I also taught art and art therapy at The College of Santa Fe for 15 years.