

MICHELLE FRIEND

Biography

In 1995, a wildlife drawing class introduced the artist, Michelle Friend, to her experience drawing a mountain lion, her focus for more than 17 years. Her first drawing of a mountain lion, from a magazine picture quickly led her to draw more and more and before long, Michelle was determined to see a live cat. Michelle's first encounters with big cats took place in zoos, but her passion soon lead her to Montana, where an experienced guide and mountain lion tracker introduced her to cougars in the wild. These encounters inspired a profound respect for these noble animals, and educated her about mountain lion ecology and conservation. From habitat destruction to hunting, and the pet trade, which is illegal in California, a whole new awareness of the plight of her favorite artistic subject began to inform her work. What began as a creative pursuit quickly became a mission to educate the public about the value of America's most maligned, feared and misunderstood predator.

Michelle's sensitive wildlife portraits have been exhibited throughout the Bay Area. Her sprawling series of large graphite drawings of mountain lions form the body of her forthcoming exhibitions "*Ghost Cat My World*", and soon a book by the same name.

Michelle is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in Communications and Public Policy with a minor in Art. She took additional art classes at College of Marin, design classes at CCAC, and classes the Hudson River Valley Art Workshop with Stanley Maltzman. She continued to take lessons focusing on wildlife art with several inspiring instructors, especially Andrew Denman.

EXHIBITIONS

- The LightRoom 2016
Berkeley, California
Ghost Cat my world
Solo Exhibition
- Sonoma State University 2015
Rohnert Park, California
Ghost Cat my world
Solo Exhibition

- The Belvedere/Tiburon Library 2015
Tiburon, California
Juried - Solo Exhibition
Ghost Cat my world
- San Francisco Women Artists Gallery 2015
San Francisco, California
Artists' Choice - Group Exhibition
- California Pacific Medical Center 2014
San Francisco, California
Nature - Juried Group Exhibition
- San Francisco Women Artists Gallery 2014
San Francisco, California
Nature - Juried Group Exhibition
- San Francisco Women Artists Gallery 2013
San Francisco, California
Flora and Fauna - Juried - Featured Artist
- The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History 2011
Pacific Grove, California
- The Philanthropy Workshop 2010
Cavallo Point
Sausalito, California
- The Oakland Museum 2006
Oakland, California
The Art of Seeing - Juried Group Exhibit
- The Folsom City Hall 2004
Folsom, California
Group Exhibit
- The Atrium Gallery 2002
San Francisco, California
Group Exhibit