

MARTHA FERRIS

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BIO

Martha Ferris is a mixed media artist whose paintings, murals, and large scale public works have been exhibited in galleries, museums, schools, parks and other public spaces across the country.

Her paintings on steel, paper, wood, canvas and clayboard, her three dimensional and brightly illuminated Blues Boxes, her mosaic splash pools, her wall sized murals, her silk screens, fabrics and prints tend to combine precise, even severe, geometric formalism with warm and inviting colors to create a surprising synthesis of discipline and joy.

All of her work, without exception, is deeply rooted in her sense of place.

Martha Ferris grew up on her family farm on the banks of the Big Black River in western Mississippi, and her early work reflects the rich variety and vivid colors of the flowers, trees and abundant wildlife that flourishes in the Big Black River Basin.

From the beginning Martha committed herself to a program of continuous experimentation and constant change, a process that took her work from small patches of fabric transformed by traditional techniques, particularly batik, to the large scale splash pools she designed for the Mississippi Museum of Art's public gardens, a project that covers more than 500 square feet and employs light, water, high powered pumps, brightly colored mosaics and advanced computer technology to create a sophisticated work of art that doubles as a children's play space. These are the McRae's Children's Fountains, and they have been widely written about and praised not only for their beauty but also for their civic value.

Martha continues to experiment across a growing range of media. She is currently developing a new series of paintings, Cityscapes, that extends her sense of place far beyond her family farm. These new paintings, which display Martha's long standing love of exacting geometry and brilliant coloring, detail her response to cities around the world to which she has traveled, cities as far away in time and space as Damascus, Rome, New York, and Berlin. These new paintings were featured at the Fischer Galleries in April, 2013.