

emma hefty

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## bio

Emma Hefty is an abstract artist who combines her love of medieval metaphysics with abstraction by exploring philosophical concepts through the medium of paint.

Born in London in 1970, art was always an abiding passion. Choosing to take time for travel throughout the United States, Emma returned to the UK in 1991 shortly before the birth of her eldest daughter. She spent the next 13 years combining motherhood and work as a jewelry designer with pursuing her BA degree in European and Celtic Studies. While pursuing her MA in Celtic Studies she began to nurture her creative skills. In 2009 she began working toward her MFA in Painting at the Academy of Art University and will graduate in 2012.

Her work fuses the figurative and the abstract, distorting the body to create new meaning. A long term advocate against domestic violence she combines her academic background in the medieval Celtic world with modern social issues to create contorted dreamlike images. *Beginning & End*, her MFA thesis project, deals with the duality of existence and was inspired, in part, by her husband's diagnosis with Hepatitis C in 2011, and her own emotional journey towards rationalizing mortality. The opposing forces of the physical and the metaphysical are explored using the deconstruction of the body into abstraction. Many elements – philosophy, religion, poetry, myth – are interwoven with écorché sketches to create mystical, meditative paintings, with an ambiguity that allows the viewer to interpret through their own framework of understanding.

After spending a year living in Valencia, Spain, Emma now temporarily resides in Madison, Wisconsin with her husband Dan and their daughter Mae where she previously lived for seven years. Prior to her sojourn in Spain she was a participant and board member of the Madison Area Open Art Studios and remains a member of Evolution Arts Collective.