

## ARTIST STATEMENT

### Anika Ellison Savage

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*My Work:* As an architect, I synthesized a myriad of design requirements (aesthetic, functional, regulatory, civic, budgetary, symbolic, climatic, structural, etc.) to produce a responsive, beautiful object. I painted, sketched and drew to represent my intentions and my designs were realized in the craftsmanship of numerous trades. As an artist, I have a more direct and tactile experience. I love to feel the texture of the oils as I apply them to canvas and to get my hands into clay to shape a piece. I use vibrant color to reflect my fascination with the beauty of our natural and built environment, human form and expressive composition. I love to experiment with a variety of media, styles and techniques. My work currently focuses on abstract landscapes in oil on canvas. I also enjoy creating ceramics on the wheel and by hand.

*Creative Process:* When a mental image, scene or idea inspires me, I sketch a composition on the canvas mindful of value, light and color. I use a palette of colors that I respond to instinctively. Applying these elements in a way that “tells the story,” I let the creative process take over. What emerges is often quite different, richer and deeper, than my initial intention.

*Artistic goals:* Early in my career, I thought that the buildings I designed would form a legacy. I have found a different kind of fulfillment in art. I do it for self-satisfaction and the sense of purpose that comes from within. In externalizing my feelings, I see them more clearly. My goal is always to express beauty on multiple levels; physical, emotional, spiritual. These artistic expressions may create more of a legacy than anything built in stone.

*Accomplishments:* Most significantly, to me, is the gradual shift I’m experiencing from being externally driven to a stance of self-fulfillment and gratification. This shift allows me to see myself more clearly and to express myself more authentically.

*I create art in order to* collect, process and express my thoughts and feelings from my earliest memories to the present. I believe in putting something positive into the world. In the creative process, I feel at one with the experience. I have an ongoing sense of fulfillment in living with and sharing the results. If others find value and respond to my art, I am delighted.



As an example of my life-long drive to create, this photo shows me wearing a sweater I knit in high school [a while ago]. It “went missing” for a long time but, surprisingly, turned up with my sister in Paris. My then high school aged son went to visit her and retrieved it for me.