



Stepping Into Autumn

38" x 35"

oil on canvas

2003

Another favorite piece influenced by nature hikes in Marin County. In this canvas I attempted to go beneath surface recognition and directly paint the vibe unseen!

And there are complex and unified vibes in the woods around Mt Tamalpais that make deep impressions on my psyche. I am referring to the Redwood trees, and the attractive trails that magnetized me further afoot into their embrace.

For years that was a wooded realm where I felt connected the most with the earth. Enchanted really.

Bay area earth, which features extremes of both vividly beautiful

nature, and rich urban culture.

This painting exemplifies the seeking of abstraction in nature into its own separate world in paint.

There are subtle hints of a trail, with the receding “steps” that climb up and into this rather organic composition. The orange dominant hues remind me of pumpkins and autumn leaves, and I painted this during that fabulous fall.

The music I was most enamored by, has the catchy CD title “Steppin’ Out with the Grateful Dead”. So after I finished this, became “Stepping into Autumn”. That title tells it like it is! Yet it’s not distinctly illustrative. Being enigmatic makes it all the more compelling to see and/or feel something different each time I see it.

I enjoy the painterly qualities of paint pushed and weaved into a real painting.

Elements slightly resemble natural things such as Redwood bark, and are there autumn leaves and plant life showing, or firing neurons?
You tell me!

~Dean Gustafson , November 2021