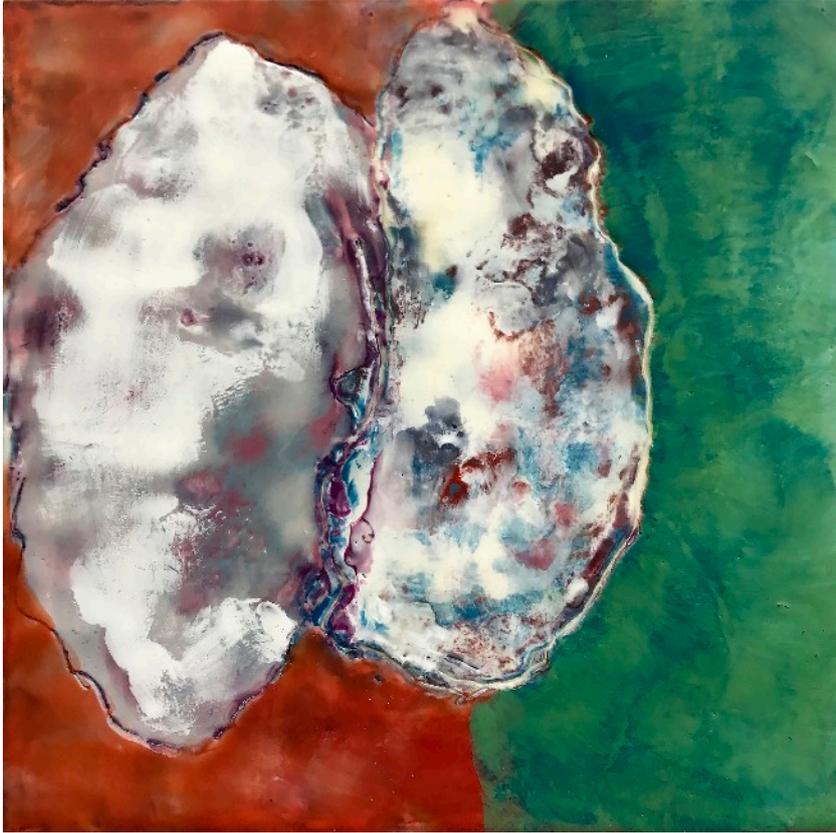


JOAN STUART ROSS (WA)



Oyster Shell Couple Red & Green, encaustic, on panel, 12 x 12 inches

My Oyster Shell paintings are inspired by the luminous oyster shells and the stories-high oyster shell stacks that proliferate on the shores of Willapa Bay, near my summer studio in Nahcotta, a village on Washington state's Long Beach peninsula. Willapa Bay is the largest pristine estuary in the country, and oysters are especially sensitive to water quality. My Oyster paintings are infused with long-time painting interests: spatial depth, a composition that fills the space, and the colorful, painterly quality of linear strokes and brush-laden marks. These essential elements are connected to fluidity, both of technique and of the iconic image of the mysterious oyster shell.

Artist Statement
Joan Stuart Ross