

**HELEN DANNELLY**  
**Artist Statement and Bio**

[www.helendannellyart.com](http://www.helendannellyart.com)

<https://www.instagram.helendannellyart.com>

**Artist's Statement**

I am interested in metamorphosis as a natural phenomenon as well as an interpersonal phenomenon. This interest is reflected in my work, whether in my paintings or abstract organic sculpture. My work is inspired by the natural world: light, shadow, color, plant life, sea life, water, earth, pods, seeds, cocoons, coral, sea anemones. Much of my current work is done in plein air, inspired by my first trip to Claude Monet's home and gardens in Giverny, France last year. I am a member of the Plein Air Painters Chicago.

**Bio**

An award-winning artist, Helen Dannelly is a formally trained painter and sculptor raised in California. She studied painting with renowned Bay Area Photorealists Robert Bechtle and Richard McLean at San Francisco State University in the 1990's. She then studied sculpture, including bronze casting and metal arts, at the University of Minnesota. She has worked in encaustic both two- and three-dimensionally which she enjoys because of its versatility.

Dannelly's work has been shown at Slate Contemporary in Oakland, CA, Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica, CA, Conrad Wilde Gallery, in Tucson, AZ, Adam Peck Gallery and Julie Heller Gallery in Provincetown, MA, Truro Center for the Arts, Truro, MA, Kolman & Pryor Gallery in Minneapolis, MN, Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, WI, Grove Gallery in Evanston, CSI Project Space, Christopher Art Gallery, ARC Gallery, Stola Contemporary Art, Bridgeport Art Center, Addington Gallery, and Alma Gallery in Chicago, IL, and the Ballenglen Art Museum in County Mayo, Ireland, amongst other venues.

Her work is included in *Encaustic Art in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, by E. Ashley Rooney and Anne Lee (Schiffer, 2016). She is the winner of sculpture awards at Phipps Center for the Arts (Juror: Erica Spitzer Rasmussen) and Sanchez Center for the Arts (Juror: William Theophilus Brown). Her 2019 two-person exhibition highlighting the effect of climate change on coral reefs, "The Coral Project" was written up in the Chicago Tribune: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/daily-southtown/news/ct-sta-ent-impact-st-0201-story.html>

Dannelly is Curator at the Forshey Gallery in the Chicago Loop. She is a Golden Artist Educator alumna, a Silver Brush Educator and an R&F Trained Advanced Encaustic Instructor. Co-Founder of Catalyst Art Lab, an artists' membership community and online teaching site, Helen is originally from California but currently lives in Chicago where she teaches classes in painting, encaustic, sculpture and color theory. She also teaches workshops nationally and internationally (California, Hawaii, New Orleans, France, Ireland.) She will be offering a three-day color theory workshop "Color in the Wild" at Mendocino Art Center September 4 – 6. Her next international painting trip, Abstracting the Landscape, will be to beautiful southwest France in October, 2026 and then again in County Mayo, Ireland in June, 2027. See: [www.HelenDannelly.com](http://www.HelenDannelly.com) for more info!