

Wish You Were Here: *Christine Hanlon*

When did you live in the Bay Area, and what brought you here?

I lived in the SF Bay area from 1981 to 2011 and originally followed my musician sweetheart out here after meeting him in Chicago. That relationship ended but my love of the Bay area never did!

What prompted you to leave?

My husband and I had been renters together since 1994, but lived in unconventional situations including on boats, in artist warehouse lofts in the city, and in an RV with shipping containers in a boatyard. We got tired of being at the mercy of landlords and realized we needed to find a piece of land to have more security.

Where did you end up?

We looked all over northern California including the SF Bay area, but realized that nothing was affordable, nor could we be anywhere near the water which was a high priority for both of us. So we started widening our search to include southern Oregon, which is how we ended up on the southern coast of Oregon.

Has your artwork changed or evolved since you left the Bay Area?

Yes, my artwork has changed slightly, with my watercolor series on forest fires, but I continue to do maritime works, which will always be part of my aesthetic expression. The fire paintings will be featured in my first solo museum show at the Coos Art Museum in 2021.

What are you up to now?

Working on a piece for the upcoming annual juried national maritime show at the Coos Art Museum as well as the fire paintings. The maritime work has garnered several awards in this annual show over the last decade including Best in Show and the Port of Coos Bay Commissioners Award.