

March 26 through May 28, 2023

Thalassa

paintings and sculpture by
Diana Unrein
of Hays, Kansas

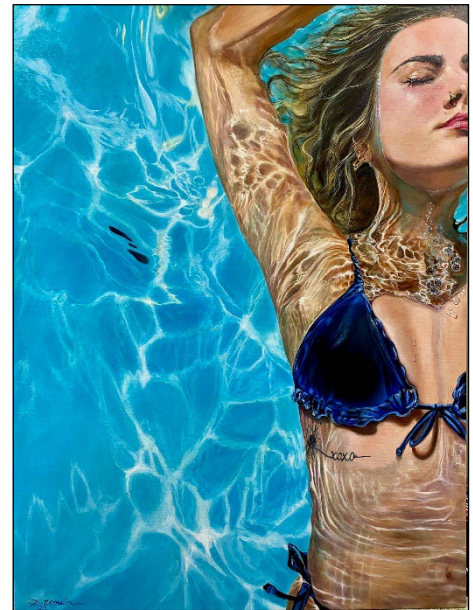
Artist Statement

Capturing the spontaneous and fleeting effects of light on water, my paintings seek to share the beauty and mystery of the human figure glimpsed through the flickering filter of moving water.

Growing up immersed in swimming and the beach life of my home in Cyprus, water has always been a dramatic presence in my life and art. The surface patterns and fragmented pieces of the figure distorted by their underwater transformation, offer a unique and unexpected view of the body.

My art is an exploration of the human experience, I utilize clay to initiate conversations about environmental issues through the creation of life-size sculptural works – exploring the interaction between nature and human experience in the context of our climate crisis.

Diana Unrein



Detached by Diana Unrein

Biography

A sculpture finalist in the International Beautiful Bizarre Art Prize 2022, Diana Unrein has been creating art for over four decades.

Born and raised on the island of Cyprus in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, Diana is most at home near the water – an avid swimmer and lover of everything aquatic. Water has been a reoccurring element that has been prevalent throughout her art, she is best known for her underwater figurative paintings. Her oil paintings are a combination of realism and abstraction and her most recent sculptures address environmental issues that are impacting the ocean.

Unrein came to Hays, Kansas, to attend university as an undergraduate. She earned her B.F.A. and M.F.A. degrees in art with an emphasis on painting from Fort Hays State University.

She is married to her husband James, a third-generation rancher, together they raised their three children on a farm in Western Kansas. Unrein works out of her home studio in Hays, where she lives with her husband.

Unrein is a former founding member of the Wednesday Evening Drawing Group on the Fort Hays State campus and Artists At Work Studio, a cooperative of women artists. She is also a member of the Hays Arts Council and American Women Artists Organization.

Her work has been exhibited regionally, internationally, and resides in private collections. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, most notably an AWA Award of Excellence: Lifting the Sky, Elevating the Works of American Women Artists, and has a sculpture permanently exhibited in the Limassol Municipal Art Gallery in Cyprus. She is represented by the Hilliard Gallery in Kansas City.



Birger Sandzén
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Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.