

# Erin Price

## Biography

Erin Price is a painter, former K-12 teaching artist, and instructor at the University of Missouri who seeks to honor the beauty of humankind and the created world. Living abroad and across the United States has widened Price's worldview, while also increasing appreciation for small details of life. Her focus extends across an assemblage of scenes, negotiating seemingly competing viewpoints across facets of the many places she calls 'home'.

Erin sees art as a means to share the nuance of culture through both personal experience and varied perspectives. She aspires to edify individuals as she documents her own connections to intersecting generations, social issues, and cultural groups. Her work incorporates unique angles and vignettes of human relations in a more-than-human world, showcasing iconic natural and manmade spaces and traditional ceremony alongside the beauty of the everyday.

Price's work has shown nationally in both individual and juried group shows. Her Mountain Memories series, depicting scenes of the Sino-Tibetan borderlands, found particular acclaim with University and Educational Galleries throughout the Pacific Northwest. It is with deep gratitude that Erin portrays the people and places which continue to shape her, moments of connection which comprise life.

## Artist Statement

The ability to commemorate and extend moments of cultural exchange has always been one of my favorite aspects of art. In the sharing, we are continually changed. These works highlight people, places, and ways of life amongst rural villages in Southwest China, inspired by my memories of years spent living in and returning to these mountains. This homage to the rugged Mountain People is an expression of love and gratitude for the many ways in which they embraced and influenced me. It is also a broader celebration of the shared culture, tradition, and connection which can arise from an ethos of humble curiosity and care.

Each of these vignettes carries with it a Mountain Memory. Though they are but a glimpse into the richness of daily life, they are infused with tradition, diversity, and a confluence of influences in perpetual motion. These memories are the neighbors and mountains I loved - the mist beneath our feet, the generosity of ash-cooked potatoes, the exhaustion of mountain treks and nights by the fire. They vividly evoke for me the visceral memories of hard row-hoeing, mud huts, goat trails, songs echoing from mountain walls, bustling markets and spicy dishes... joys and triumphs and hardship; illness and shared celebrations; tears and grit and tenacity and hope.

Most of all, these images celebrate the bloom spaces of reciprocal caring and love that transcends divisions or borders; an intentional practice that must be negotiated at many fords in the road. The Mountain People had a myriad of backgrounds, class distinctions, material cultures and faiths; yet nearly all welcomed me with humanizing care. In a world in which appreciation and wonder have too often been hijacked by tension and opposition, the simple practice of curious attention and love for humankind seems all the more worth sharing. I hope meeting these scenes inspires you to wonder – not only about these experiences and cultures, but also your own.