

WILLA COX (BIO)

I was born in Montana and grew up in Hawaii. My first art class is also one of my first memories, and I have been painting ever since. My grandparents lived near the ocean on Maui, and I spent many wonderful childhood hours beach-combing. As a teen-ager and young adult, I loved hiking in the mountains and swimming in the pools at the base of waterfalls. These experiences of nature in Hawaii remain important to me and are a continual source of inspiration.

Entranced by New York City (my first visit was in 1982), I moved there in 1983 upon receiving a Master in Fine Arts degree from the University of Hawaii. I worked in an upper-east-side gallery until, in 1986, I began my career at a major New York City art museum, where I manage the Registrar's art storeroom. Among many other aspects of my work, I especially value the daily opportunities to learn from the great works I see and the people I work with and meet.

My husband, Jeffrey Saldinger, is also an artist. His website is jeffreysaldinger.com and is also listed under "Link". We were married in 1988. Our home includes studio spaces, a print-making room, and a small garden. To maximize the amount and quality of our studio time, we decided in 1997 that it was a good time for Jeffrey to leave his job at a major New York City art library -- a decision that has worked out well for us in expected and unexpected ways.