

Based in Olympia, WA, Skolopendra Studio owner and artist Emily Kaelin offers strange and compelling artistry and creations inspired by the beauty and chaos of nature and life, honoring its shades both light and dark, and its forms both beautiful and fearsome.

Specializing in oils, acrylics, watercolor, gouache, mixed media, sculpture, installation, and more, Emily's creations evoke the organic complexity of the natural world, frequently intertwining both beautiful and grotesque elements resulting in work that is deeply fascinating and compelling, revealing new details, layers, and facets upon closer and closer inspection.

Skolopendra Studio showcases a myriad of Emily's artistic offerings. For example, oil paintings and watercolors manifest surreal and abstracted forms through expressive, sensuous mark-making and vivid color.

In organic and abstract sculptures, strange combinations of a plethora of materials and methods, both conventional and unexpected, evoke forms both natural and alien.

Wands and scepters crafted from foraged sticks and driftwood - along with other natural materials like stones, crystals, and moss - are utilized in tandem with traditional art and craft materials to become enchanting works of art in their own right.

Rich colors in every hue, lush textures and details, visceral and bizarre forms, iridescence and glitter, dripping fluids and tangled black hair - these and more describe many of the signature elements that abound in pieces that are as widely varied as they are also deeply stylistically and conceptually entwined.

Whether in the form of a traditional oil painting, a mixed media sculpture, or a crystal-pointed wand, each creation is made with deep intention and care, and resonates vibrant energy and emotional depth meant to speak to the deepest parts within oneself, and to re-ignite dimmed fires in one's mind, heart, and soul.

Emily is now available for commissions in the Olympia/Seattle/Portland area! Are you looking for unique, evocative, dark, and surreal art for a special project, locale, or occasion? Emily is available for personal commissions in painting and sculpture, murals, cover and promo art for bands and musicians, custom wands and scepters, and more! For more information or to request a commission, please feel free to email me! skolopendraaa.studio@gmail.com

Be on the lookout for Skolopendra Studio at local markets, festivals and other events - you can check back with this page to see upcoming events!

Brand New Website Coming SOON!

Connect with me on Instagram! @skolopendra_studio @vvitchinheat

About the Artist:

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, I moved to the Olympia, WA area in September 2024 - a goal I've worked towards for over a decade! Yearning to live closely with the remarkable beauty of the forests local to this part of the country, and the incredible healing, peace, and awe they provide me - not to mention artistic inspiration - are my primary motivations in relocating to this area. But I also came to Washington to find new paths to traverse on my journey as an artist and creator, and I'm excited to find and connect with other creators and lovers of strange, dark, and provocative art in all its forms!

Artistic Background:

I spent well over a decade working actively in the underground art and music scene in my hometown of Cincinnati, participating in as well as curating numerous exhibitions and events, utilizing my full range of creative skills from painting and sculpture, to installation and set design, to performance and music. I am hoping to find even more opportunities and collaborators here in my new home! If you are interested in working together or just want to link up with a fellow weirdo artist-type, please feel free to email me! skolopendraaa.studio@gmail.com

I hold a BFA in Painting and Drawing from RMCAD in Denver, CO, as well as an MFA from the Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan, Ireland, and have shown my work both nationally and internationally for over 15 years. In recent years I've attended artist residencies in Skagaströnd, Iceland as well as Shelton, WA (with the latter thoroughly solidifying my adamant desire to live in this part of the country). In addition, I've worked as a painting teacher and art educator in various forms for the past decade, as well as a graphic designer.

Music and Sound:

In tandem with my visual art practice, I have also spent over 15 years composing multiple forms of experimental and electronic music - an outgrowth of the musical training I received in piano and guitar in my youth. I am currently focusing on song-writing, synths, and vocals in an eclectic music project - VKVEENA (pronounced "ook-VEE-nuh") - which takes inspiration from industrial, witch house, harsh noise, black metal/doom metal, dark ambient, and other genres to create dark, intense, and experimental storytelling through song and sound. VKVEENA's first EP, titled "Annihilation", is due to be released in the coming months, but the single "Like a

Stone" (Audioslave cover) is currently available on Spotify, Bandcamp, Soundcloud, and YouTube for your listening pleasure!

https://open.spotify.com/artist/4F0pNfXaXQjCZPEGUj8uzw?si=ly_-7G0ZTEKPsZcmdXlcRg
<https://vkveena.bandcamp.com/track/like-a-stone>
<https://soundcloud.com/vkveena>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmYum44m-kk>

Although VKVEENA has been a solo-project up until now, I am soon to expand my sound through the addition of a guitarist, and I am also looking for a live drummer to complete the picture! If you're a local drummer proficient in multiple forms of metal-style drumming - black metal in particular - and love dark and insane music, please feel free to reach out to me via email! skolopendraaa.studio@gmail.com

Artist Statement:

I create because I must, because there is too much within my mind and my heart to be contained within my own self. I must express, I must expunge, this filthy excess of feeling and fear and passion and desire.

I create because I am overwhelmed, I am at the mercy of chaos, and I must develop an order to this chaos, to channel it, to make sense of it, to find the most strange beauty in it, to create meaning where there may be no meaning.

I create because I witness in life all around me the reflection of the same chaos within me, the same unfathomable dualities and infinite complexity - outward into the cosmos and beyond, and back inwards to the most microcosmic level - in body, mind, and soul.

I create so that I don't lose touch with myself or my being, so that I don't disconnect and dissociate from myself and the rest of existence, to keep the void at bay, and to honor the immensely incomprehensible nature of the void.

I create so that I don't suffer alone, so that my shadows can have a voice, so that my life has meaning that overcomes any entropy or atrophy I may face.

I create to cast a thread into the void in search of another to catch it, to weave of web of connection between any who see my work as a door they can enter.

I create to honor the profound beauty and terror of nature and the endless cycles of creation, destruction, and rebirth, and to channel these same forces within my creative work to manifest transformation and transcendence.

I create because it is my birthright as a human, and I must resist the countless efforts we all endure that attempt to beat our inherent creative nature out of us.

I create as sacred ritual and primal scream, my offerings a gift of love, and a tribute to the void above me, the dirt below me, and the fire within me - and within us all.