

## CARNEGIE FOUNDATION ACQUIRES PAINTINGS BY SHEILA FINCH

Sheila Finch's art became an addiction for me from the first time I visited her studio with a friend. Over several years, I have filled my small home with her paintings. So, it should be no surprise that when the president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching asked me to select art for the very large Forum space, which is essentially the Foundation's "living room", I knew whose paintings I wanted. I even had an idea of a particular painting that I hoped was still available. It wasn't easy acquiring the paintings for the Foundation at that time. The gallery that represented her in Palo Alto had closed and she no longer had a studio, having moved with her husband to life on a sailboat. She had also badly broken her leg and was not painting during this time. But I did track her down and found she was storing art at another artist's studio outside of Sacramento. She sent photos of some of the paintings and I was immediately ready for a road trip. We rented a van and made the trek. I had intended and was instructed to purchase one large painting for the Foundation; I came back with two.



It was an easy sell to convince Carnegie to buy them both. Sheila paints from and is inspired by the Bay Area, but her paintings have universal appeal. There is passion and emotion in her landscapes and scenes of the sea. Her compelling and extravagant use of color and sweeping brush strokes draw you in and it is impossible to take this art for granted. With every "visit" there is something new to discover, the way the light at different times of day reveals the underside of a wave or a cloud or the way the Bay grasses change color as the sun moves through the sky. The paintings brought new life to the Foundation's most public space and are admired by staff and visitors alike.

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