

Indi Carlton

Time, in my work, is built rather than illustrated. I paint in layers, often many more than remain visible on the final surface. Acrylic paint is laid down, scraped back, textured, reworked, and allowed to reveal its own history. This slow, layered process mirrors my experience of time itself: nonlinear and alive with memory.

Figures often appear gradually, as if they have been waiting beneath the surface. Animals enter my work not as symbols, but as sentient beings

and collaborators, carrying intelligence, endurance, and ecological knowing. I am drawn to creatures that feel unconnected to a single time-frame, inhabiting a space where ancient memory and future possibility coexist. In this way, time becomes less about a linear history and more about continuity.

My work is deeply influenced by artists who blurred boundaries between the inner and outer worlds, particularly Marc Chagall, Agnes Pelton, Hilma af Klint, Remedios Varo, and Leonora Carrington. From them, I am inspired to trust my intuition, to allow spiritual and mythic imagery to coexist with realistic images, and to treat imagination as a serious form of inquiry rather than escape.

Living and working in rural California has sharpened my relationship to time. Here, time is shaped by land, weather, fire, drought, and regeneration. The pace of creating is informed by the rhythms of place rather than the urgency of production. I think of this as a kind of artistic terroir, where geography, climate, and lived experience quietly infuse my work.

In paintings such as *Portrait of the Emberkeeper*, time appears as something carried, tended, and transformed rather than measured. These works reflect an ongoing inquiry into remembering: how knowledge survives through bodies, landscapes, and non-human lives, even when we humans forget.

My paintings invite viewers to slow down and enter a different world, one where meaning unfolds gradually, and where time is not something we move through, but is something we co-create and are already a part of.

(left) **Ostara**

(opposite) **Portrait of the Emberkeeper**

Acrylic on canvas

