

## Artist Amber Jean Young Honors Mother Pegi Young in New Exhibition of Floral Paintings at Bryant Street Gallery



*She kept cut flowers on the table* by Amber Jean Young, 2021

**PALO ALTO, CA**—Bryant Street Gallery is pleased to present *Pegi's Garden*, an exhibition of new paintings by Amber Jean Young. The brightly colored, floral works were the artist's method of coping with the loss of her mother Pegi Young, who died of ovarian cancer in 2019. The exhibition will run from March 17 to April 30, 2022 with an opening reception on Saturday, March 26 from 3-6 pm. A portion of the exhibition's proceeds will be donated to Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance.

Pegi Young was many remarkable things: singer, songwriter, disability advocate and activist, and mom. When she could not find a school that could meet the needs of her son, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, she did not give up. She helped to establish The Bridge School in Hillsborough, California, with a focus on preparing children with disabilities for further education and navigating the world. In partnership with her then husband Neil Young, the school was funded for 30 years by the annual Bridge School Benefit Concert.

Pegi's work changed many lives, but none as much as her children. *Pegi's Garden* is a tribute to her as a person and as a mother. The works weave together playful and saturated renditions of plants with patterns derived from textiles and the artist's quilting experience. The work draws inspiration from the Pattern and Decoration Movement of the 1970s and 1980's as well as Pegi's eye for mixing and matching patterns of woven rugs and bold upholstery fabrics in her home.. The plants are inherited from Pegi and their daily care—repotting them, watering them, even painting them—is a way for the artist to make room for her mother every day and remember her radiance.

The vivid colors of the paintings act as mood enhancers. Like photosynthesis, the saturated colors have an almost chemical effect that can transform grieving into remembering. Teal, fuschia, and orange—like flowers and children’s toys and books alike—evoke the joy of Pegi’s memory and ease the daily pain of her loss.

Beyond plants and patterns, *Pegi’s Garden* is about the coping skills passed down to a daughter from her mother. When Pegi was faced with adversity as a young mother, she turned to her creativity to start and support something new. Her resiliency is passed down too and reflected in these paintings. In a moment when Amber’s personal grief is joined by a global grief because of the pandemic, these paintings are a guide not only to surviving tragedy but also to finding joy.

### **ABOUT AMBER JEAN YOUNG**

Amber Jean Young (b. 1984) is an interdisciplinary artist residing in Berkeley California. Young’s work explores ideas about place, home, loss, grief, and resilience across mediums including painting, textiles, and sculpture. She has exhibited nationally including Marrow Gallery and ArtPad SF in San Francisco, Berkeley Art Center in Berkeley, Monte Vista Projects and Subliminal Projects in Los Angeles, the Ace Hotel in Palm Springs. She is a 2012 Djerassi Resident Artist Program fellow and a 2012 SECA Art Award nominee. Her work is published in catalogs including *The MediaMath Collection: Selected Acquisitions 2012 - 2016, A Celebration of 50 Years of Women Artists At Kenyon College, MusiCares 2010* catalog and her art has been used on the covers and inside jackets of multiple Neil Young and Pegi Young albums.

For more information, visit [www.bryantstreet.com](http://www.bryantstreet.com)

### **AMBER JEAN YOUNG: PEGI’S GARDEN**

March 17 - April 30, 2022

### **OPENING RECEPTION**

March 26 from 3-6 PM

### **BRYANT STREET GALLERY**

532 Bryant Street  
Palo Alto CA 94301  
Tuesday – Saturday  
10:00 AM – 5:30 PM  
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