

Statement
Jennifer Ament

One of art's callings is to reflect honestly on the things we see, as well as reveal how we might better view them. Jen Ament does not flinch from difficulty or absurdity, and yet her depictions of our vulnerabilities and follies are never heavy-handed. The core of Ament's vitality is her ability to emphasize playful acceptance through a range of depictions. Characters in her works exude a contemplative and self-exposing invitation to be recognized. They ask us to recognize both ourselves and each other.

Ament works towards a minimalism in both line and composition. There is space and levity that balance the care and social thought she invests, as well as the lengthy process of rendering. Her paintings have a sense of humor, drawn along the line between the sublime and the ridiculous. It's the kind of humor that is simple and true, equal parts obvious and surprising.

It's a lifetime's work to see beyond our wishful illusions and projections--to cut through so we can perceive things as they are. This may manifest as a whimsical poke at our absurdities, or a simple gold moon. Linocuts are literally cut away, while encaustic paintings build and remove layers through looking and re-looking at what is actually there. Ament's acrylic paintings are revelations of herself, and ourselves, bravely honest as they are wryly saucy. The simplicity of her compositions is deceptive; it derives from a painstaking process of looking and revealing, both within and outside the studio.