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Desert Scenes

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Desert Scenes

by Diana Gourlay



Diana Gourlay, "Heat," 2020, Oil on Linen



Diana Gourlay, "Desert Spiral," 2020, Oil on Linen

Diana Gourlay is a transplant from New Jersey who has fully embraced New Mexico. Even after twenty-four years, she still feels there are many hidden gems to discover there. She especially enjoys hiking in the various New Mexican landscapes and the weather. The light in New Mexico is amazing and she aims to bring out the subtleties it provides. Gourlay attempts to be abstract but often the real figurations of plants and animals find a way into the picture. The painting, *Heat*, depicts a spinning world in the bright sunlight with a faceless blue woman, cactus, and bird. The summers can be intense but the trio dances in celebration of that intensity. The other painting, *Desert Spiral* is about expansive vistas and interconnectedness. Here, plants and birds show how everything is tied to the basic energy of water, sun, and land. The birds looking at the viewer remind us that we are also part of the landscape and of that interplay of energy.