

Artist statement

We are not mutually exclusive events. Our lives and our perceptions are changed and influenced by the events that occur and the people that inhabit our lives. I find a lot of my art intuitively reflects these influences.

In the same way these influences change my life they also manipulate my art. Images for me become an abstract narrative and a language for me to write the story of my art. Many of these images are drawn from nature, such as the graceful arcing of a branch or the way light will break through a cloud on a rainy day. Everyday life also plays a part for me, the negative space on a Japanese textile or the texture of water drying on paper. Each piece is new and different from each other but, inhabited by a common 'language' they have a bond.

Throughout my life I have explored many media; painting, textiles drawing. I even majored in sculpture. I seem to have a different style with each media but, eventually I found myself coming back to gouache' and oil.

When painting with gouache' I use layers, painting wet into wet. I start with very wet paper and a single lighter under coat such as cadmium yellow then working darker and brighter colored layers in as drips and brush strokes as it dries. The end result becomes a controlled spontaneity.

The story of the art itself is less precise than the images or the process used. For me it is more an instinctive plot, driving from my own personal feelings of the world around us. I have been influenced by cave art as well as hero myths and fairytales. These images and stories contain the basics of humanity; the need to survive and the fear of the unknown as well as its allure. Particularly, I am interested in the seductive quality of the forest. In fairytales it is a place of danger and fascination. Within the depths and shadows of the forest can lurk predators waiting for us to turn our backs. But, it also contains beauty and mystery and if it didn't have the shadows would we not find it less beautiful and tempting?