



Artist Statement as a Painter:

My oil paintings have recently taken a stylistic turn from a form that I had been making for many years. My works traditionally have been life size images that were representational of everyday life depicting interior spaces. Interest in scale, color, pattern, and the tactile recognition of an object's surface was paramount in the fact, that in painting in such a manner, I believed that the audience would have an immediacy with the work which in turn would make a personal reference to their own life experience. The use of an underlying organizational grid, utilizing a horizontal and vertical axis for placement of shape was, and still is, an integral component within most all of my paintings. To me the grid represents a sense of order which to me parallels the order and balance that underpins our natural world.

Early works were constructed from direct observation of life and from photographs. Soon they transformed into a composite of images derived from memory, imagination, photographs and the natural world while still maintaining a rather naturalistic quality. This composite of representational images, although appearing naturalistic, acquired a more playful and magical aspect to them, indeed they were made up scenes purposefully meant to capture the viewer's eye and tell a story. Color was continuously heightened and pattern became more dominant to suggest the pleasure of life.

Since becoming more involved with digital applications while working as a graphic designer and educator, I have sought ways to meld traditional oil painting with digital design. This experience helped me realize that my underlying message and reason for painting in the first place did not need be reliant upon representation, rather I could say something perhaps even more lucid through color, organization and pattern. I have always believed that the formal elements of art and organization of the picture plane can have as much of a voice as any thematic image. At present, my work is twofold, at times representational and at times non representational, each employing iconic motif. Whether representational or not, reference is most often made to nature, ethnicity, family and spiritual concerns.

My most recent paintings are initially designed in Adobe CS4 (PhotoShop and Illustrator) which are later transcribed to canvas and painted in an acrylic based under painting, they are then worked over in oil paint with ongoing adjustments. Some paintings include a digital photographic image of a sky that has been imprinted on the canvas prior to paint application. I often create mandala type forms with patterns that reflect an interest in culture and faiths from around the world which to me expresses the profound similarities that we all share as human beings. Reference to a global concern for our planet's health is conveyed through the inclusion of a form found from nature which is then placed in juxtaposition with the patterned non-representational imagery. The grid, as in the past, remains a symbol for order and balance, likewise, the intense color palette and many patterns are symbols for the need to cherish and celebrate our short life on this earth. My ultimate desire is that my work will provide a visual image that promotes reflection, meditation and pleasure to the onlooker.