

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I'm a fan of uncertainty. Not knowing you're doing it right is a good thing. It makes you stop and think. When I paint, I'm playing as much as I'm working. I'm asking questions. And, most often, I'm not sure I've got the right answers. So, I have mixed feelings about describing what I do as "work." It has a slightly bitter, puritanical aftertaste ... and I like slopping paint around. It's the reason I wanted to be an artist as a kid, and I think it's still a fine reason to paint. We've come to distrust the visual, and the finger-painter in us. Somehow, those aspects of art-making don't seem thorny or ironic enough, or adequately self-aware. They are deeply satisfying though. Art is one of the most natural things in the world, fundamentally useless, but hugely pleasurable and very important. Images carry meaning. It's my experience that it's impossible to convey that meaning in words precisely ... otherwise, painters would be poets, and use language... but there is part of our brain that looks for patterns, sees structures, and judges relationships; that is attuned to the textures of the physical world; and that part of us resonates to the language of the visual. I go in whatever direction the painting takes me; I'm very comfortable with a perpetually unfinished process. The complex, charged tension between apparent opposites --- chaos and order, emotion and intellect, creation and decay, high and low --- is the text of my current painting; also, how the impulse to beauty wrestles with the desire for truth.

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