

Pamela Watkins

Artist Statement

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From my perspective, my art is almost entirely about process. Images come to me that elicit other images. Eventually, these visualizations turn into a design for an artwork. Sometimes I don't know what the artwork is about until I've almost finished designing it. At other times I begin with a general idea and let it percolate in my unconscious until images emerge. Toward the end of the design process I take conscious control of it, adding and subtracting until the concept is coherent and clean. Because of the way I work, my art always expresses whatever I'm mentally and emotionally involved in at the time. The works are linked by my aesthetics, the symbolic language of my unconscious mind (which tends to be Jungian), and by my conception of reality. For me, reality is porous and generative. It consists of levels of overlapping dimensions that are, ultimately, products of consciousness.

Because of the way I work, coming up with a design requires very little conscious effort. On the other hand, coming up with a painting that I think is good can involve considerable work. It's important to me that some passages are drawn accurately – because I want my art to convey a sense of reality. When I'm painting, I'm focusing on the qualities of the paint and the aesthetics of the piece – the lines, colors, textures, contrasts, et cetera, and their organization.

My style has evolved out of my experiments with art materials, my aesthetics, and the guidance I have received from other artists, living and dead. At this point the mentors are too numerous to mention.

My ultimate hope is that my art will resonate with viewers – that it will connect them with the state of their own being in meaningful and useful ways.