

cynthia byrnes contemporary art

Liz Dexheimer Artist Statement

My work is a celebration: of color, of the conversation that occurs as colors react and interact with each other, each adding its own energy and dynamic; of gesture, movement, energy, the ambiguity of line and shape; of pattern and form, how they combine and collaborate to suggest or define objects, motion, space, everything. My emphasis is on conveying the sense of a moment, of place, through structures and patterns rather than a literal interpretation of the subject matter.

Recurrent elements include the intricate frameworks of marshes, swamps, koi ponds and other wetland environments, with their elaborate combinations of linear and fluid elements. There is beauty in these places, in the co-existence of motion and stillness, the ephemeral and the enduring. I also work frequently with gestural forms and patterns that take on a more figurative quality, exploring the joy of gathering, of dance, with their inherent combination of potential and kinetic energy.

I generally work in series, allowing the pieces to respond to each other, spark dialogue, build on and enhance each other. When creating the panels and monotypes, I build the imagery with multiple layers of color, each reacting to each other and to all singularly and cumulatively. I think of each layer as a complete thought; dropped on each other the layers create a fuller story. I choose colors based on visual cues from just about everything I see, what strikes me at the moment, and how well they work with the overall image rather than whether or not they are relevant to the subject matter. I'm very aware of how color reacts to other color and comes alive (or not) based on what other colors are involved.

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