

cynthia byrnes
contemporary art

Mary Manning
Artist Statement

“As a painter, printmaker and collage artist, I am most interested in the process of making art. It is the time spent doing art that I love.

I use abstract shapes to suggest an organic subject, then work must be free to wander. This is what helps me connect to the work.

As a contemporary artist, I want it to reflect the world around me today.

As a graphic designer, I was trained to solve a problem.

I find that in printmaking, it is the spontaneity, unpredictability and element of surprise that I love. My best works are those that seem to simply happen.

My monotypes and works on paper are recognized for their exuberant color and strong graphic quality. My work reflects a lifelong curiosity, commitment to experimentation and exposure to a wide range of creative endeavors.

I soak up inspiration from music, current events, literature, nature. Many of my abstract images are based on the creation and continuance of life forms, which emerge as abstract visions of rich color, in an imaginary world. “Color, color, color! My work contains a strong graphic element and a sophisticated sense of design, but to me color trumps all other aesthetic considerations. I am a printmaker and painter, and my preferred medium is monotype, which is a one-of-a-kind painting printed on paper. This is the most direct form of printmaking - requiring only pigments, a surface on which to apply them, paper and some form of press. As a child of the 1960’s, music is a major influence on my work. The beat, pace, rhythm and lyrics of the music I listen to affect my output. My working practice unfolds in a specific tempo depending on my medium and environment. In my studio, my painting process is slow and considered. I arrange, stand back and reflect, re-arrange, stop to deliberate, re-arrange, alter the composition, change the shape structures, re-balance the elements, ponder the composition, modify the colors, re-arrange, and so on until slowly a painting emerges over a length of time. The opposite happens when I print in the printshop. My productivity becomes focused by the built-in limitation of time and the collaborative nature of working with a master printer. I give myself over to the spontaneity and immediacy of the printmaking process. I filter, edit, mix colors, improvise, and generate ideas with quick decisiveness. The combination of these two practices allows me to fully work out my artistic ideas.”

Mary Manning soaks up inspiration from nature, literature, music, and current events. Many of her abstract images are based on the creation and continuance of life forms, which emerge as abstract visions of rich color, in an imaginary world.

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I am inspired by literature, music, nature, pop culture and world events, My past series have included The Jungle Book, Hurricane Katrina, The Gulf Oil Spill, Birds, Flowers, Animals, Music.

I am an abstract artist; amorphous shapes and saturated colors are what flow through my brush. My titles remain ambiguous, so that viewers bring. Through the work, I hope they encounter the joy I brought to its creation.

She maintains a studio in Norwalk, CT and prints with Master Printer Marina Ancona in Brooklyn, NY and at The Center for Contemporary Printmaking in Norwalk, CT.