

cynthia byrnes  
contemporary art

Betsy B. Davidson  
Artist Statement

What motivates me in my art practice is the belief that I can make unusual arrangements and connections in an invented space. This stems from a background in both traditional landscape painting and the study of abstract expressionism.

Even though I am still very much influenced by the natural world, I wish to push the idea of working from direct observation into a more organic, sometimes ethereal realm of an internal source. By delving into the unknown, or unconscious, this approach resonates more truthfully to me.

In the paintings and mixed-media collages of the past decade, I have developed compositions where the subject *is* the activated dialogue - between line, shape, color and space. The surface has areas of permeability and light, where elements may float, advance, or recede. Through an explorative process, each “expression” has its own way of becoming realized.

Mindful that while the outcome is yet unknown, I must be open to and value my first, intuitive thoughts. By so doing, my more habitual *second* thoughts are kept at bay. Later in the process I will bring a critical eye to the work – after the gestational period’s imagery and structure has been established.

In this way, new visual conversations are forged. The surprises become the reward, which, in turn, motivate me to continue. The discoveries influence my ideas for future exploration.