

cynthia byrnes
contemporary art

Mary Judge
Artist Statement

Drawing and works on paper have been the main focus of my work for 20 years. I work in series and move between themes at times organic and at times of constructed geometries. My most recent group of work, the Pop Flower Series, has its origin in the geometric motifs found on local and ancient buildings in Cappadocia, Turkey, where I had a residency in 2010. The imagery seeks to fuse the mystical with rational divisions of a circle. From these first drawings, I expanded the series towards a more botanical source but always with the structural forms, not flowers per se, in mind. The drawings are made by using stencils on rag paper and pouncing the open spaces with a sack of powdered pigment. I layer more stencils and pounce again to create overlapping transparencies.

This technique grew out of many years of research using the technique of the *polvero* (meaning “dust” in Italian) which is a perforated line drawing used during the Renaissance to transfer drawing to the wall in fresco painting. Each stencil is made by tracing invented forms and cut by hand or laser. My approach to the color is intuitive so that harmonies are spontaneous and evolve over the course of the drawing process. I am interested also in the presence of accumulated debris or the unplanned, casual things that happen during the making of a work.

The inspiration for my painting derives from architecture, the mapping of it's surfaces through the ages and a love of the constructs of traditional painting forms. Through the use of symmetry, that balances and multiplies an overall effect, simple motifs are transformed into complex gardens of contrasting color. These constructions of expanding and collapsing forms unfold like maps in flat, overlapping, ornamented layers. The goal is to create a mystic and immersive experience expressed through taut color vibrations, sensual surfaces and a refined sense of craft and something that evokes the great mural arts of the past, corralled and trained, for a moment, in my own personal painting arena.