

cynthia byrnes
contemporary art

Gunnar Theel
Artist Statement

Painting

My art, like play, is without design.
It is free from reference to philosophy, politics, and post-anything.

"Knowledge increases unreality."
--W.B. Yeats, The Statues

The abstract paintings and drawings are mainly from the 70s through the 80s. Their contents alternate between line and field on a two-dimensional plane. Paintings and drawings have been exhibited, and a number are in private collections here and abroad.

I work in series. A selection of paintings and drawings from the series are represented here, however not in chronological order.

Since, I have trained myself in the art of sculpture. My sculptures continue to be exhibited, and they are in private and public collections here and abroad.

Sculpture

Right Angles: A Series

THREE L-shaped units, each composed of two steel plates joined at right angles, lean against and into each other, and create an assemblage of angled planes and spaces articulated by light and shadow, and put in motion by the viewer drawn around the sculptures.

The sculptures are fabricated from 1 1/4" (3cm) thick steel plates, oxidized or painted, and from stainless steel. They are 9' to 12' high (280 to 380cm) and weigh up to 7 tons. A monumentality is inherent to all my sculptures, small and large.

THE NEREID sculptures are part of the Right Angles series. They are inspired by the grace and lightness of the marble Nereid statues and their "wind swept drapery" at The British Museum, London. The painted steel sculptures open towards natural light which, reflected from the sculptures' angled planes, diffuses the borders between the sculptures' exterior and interior surfaces.

THE STRUCTURE sculptures are inspired by architecture, in particular the house as vessel, container, body. Again, the angled planes diffuse the border between the exterior and interior surfaces, and the viewer drawn around the oxidized steel sculptures discovers openings like doors, windows, and solid walls.

cynthia byrnes
contemporary art

MY ART is influenced by the economy of Bauhaus architecture. The right angle in the physical world, and its inherent sensations of equilibrium and quiet are my reference points as I work towards the finished sculpture by "simplification of design and refinement of proportions" (Mies van der Rohe)

