

cynthia byrnes

contemporary art

Ira Barkoff Artist Statement

My paintings are neither realistic nor abstract, each is a multi-layered response to how I feel about nature.

And while they may seem otherwise, the paintings do not depict a specific time or place, a patch of woods that someone could walk through. Except, perhaps, spiritually.

My hope is to transcend the natural world by bringing to life something deeper and more elusive than outward appearances. When I look around me, I see a purpose and perfection in the world that confirms what is in my heart.

Whenever I look at a landscape that moves me, and fills me with a certain joy, I know this feeling will generate all the impetus and focus needed to translate it onto canvas. Ultimately, it comes down to this: A given group of trees or a field or time of day is imbued with something greater and more moving than the specifics I see before me.

What it is exactly, I cannot put into words. But I know it is the only thing worth putting into my paintings.

Forest Series

I live on a mountain top that is thickly covered in forest. It has greatly influenced my work; not as a specific place with specific trees, but as a place that represents Eternal Nature. Of course I have observed the many moods of the specific forest, its different trees and different types of light, the shadows and the sunstreaks, the textures and colors. My aim is to transcend the specific forest, to create a new forest that satisfies my need for a universal forest and yet a personal one.

Earth-Sky Series

I live in a rural area where the sky is always present. Its influence is all-pervasive. It creates the light and atmosphere we live in. It can be peaceful, or turbulent, cloudy or sunny. By contrast, the earth is heavy, solid. I am aware of and fascinated by this contrast. It is what informs my Earth-Sky Series.