

Cal Poly Pomona Downtown Center Art Gallery Jan.8 - Feb. 28, 2009
Karen Kauffman's Artist's Statement

"The Rhapsody of Always-Is" a visual journal that records my observations & reflects my inner development over the past few years.

When I paint, I am interested in finding the essences of things, that which is true and transcendent: that which is joyful, expressive, sensual, playful, lyrical, organic, and architectural.

I am inspired by nature's designs. Color, shape, and form are all important in my work but I don't bring preconceived notions about the composition to any painting. I paint intuitively and by a process of accumulation. Each mark I make dictates where the next mark will be placed. The marks I make and the images my subconscious chooses symbolize the meaning that I cannot express with words.

To consider a painting finished, I balance each mark with another, until the brush strokes feel "woven", until they create an overall balance that instinctively feels complete.

Movement is an aspect that's integral to me. The physical act of painting itself becomes a poetic movement, like a dance or a ceremony. Each finished painting reflects the ritual that created it.

Painting allows me to delve into and explore deeper meaning that simple spoken words cannot. The universal visual language of painting translates emotion and specific experiences into a visually poetic dialogue easily recognized and understood.

As I engage myself with each piece, a sense of personal freedom emerges. From densely painted images of women that reflect my view of my self and my place in the world... to a series of black and white paintings done during a period that dealt with personal loss and raised many philosophical questions... to the circles, which appear more often in my work now...to the recent atmospheric and cosmic images, which I find curious, perhaps reflecting the joyous and transcendent realm of spirit.