

## BETSEY GARAND

My work derives from my observations of and experiences with the perilous nature of life; the uncertain and oftentimes fragile existences hanging by a thread, teetering on the precipice of existence. My imagery also represents themes and interests of continuum, balance, and growth; elements existent both in physical and psychological life. Seemingly familiar natural shapes are layered beneath and above biomorphic and geometric shapes. Yet, in spite of all of the inherent threats to the crucial balance in nature and natural life; there is a resilience and strength that permeates the challenge and provides hope. The seed to my imagery was planted in New Hampshire; surrounded by nature, I have made countless hours of observances of natural forms and spectacles from static frogs' eggs suspended in gelled encasements, plump spider bellies in dew laden webs, the patterns of birch bark and the majestic soaring of a Cooper's hawk. This infinite variety of form, color and change inherent in nature significantly impacts the imagery of my prints and drawings. Another source of inspiration has been from my many travels to view pictographs and petroglyphs in their natural sites; from California's Anza Borrego desert and Palomar Mountain Range, to the woodlands and shorelines of New England. These carved and drawn images on stone formations throughout the North American landscape, create a visual language that is narrative and symbolic as well as representational and abstract. The past is present in my work; combining story telling with a historic, present and imagined perspective.