

Artist's Statement:

Reoccurring themes of location, memory and duality are represented symbolically or metaphorically by incorporating the still life, landscape, recognizable symbols, and the idea of obscurity within an abstracted pictorial space. Unpretentious beauty, representational or abstract forms, are presented as places to discover meaning. Mixing abstraction with the representational and exploring the expressive qualities of material results in an indeterminate order.

Ultimately my intent is for the viewer to experience a new type of perception, dissimilar parts support an overall order. Although each work is anchored by something identifiable, essential ways to conjure meaning is addressing the power of contrasts: contradictions and resolve, tension and balance, opacity and transparency, volume and flatness.

When working in the medium of painting a rigid surface is preferred to mix mediums in a process-oriented manner: I can draw heavily into the image with a grease pencil or lightly blend oil paint across the surface. Opaque textured layers give way to of surface of suspended color, objects or forms, texture and rhythm of mark making contrasts with painted flat areas, smooth volumetric forms move across the foreground or burst open from within.

For me the 'objecthood' of a work of art is always present. Thick edges of wax are left uneven on the edges to affirm the object, the object appears suspended in a floating frame or shadow box for the edges to be relevant. Of late thick material oozes from the edges to the surface creating the contrast or juxtaposition of "thingness" and illusion.

Soni Martin