Denise Wenger

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Artist Statement

I was born with a cerebral hemorrhage, developed slowly and had poor eyesight, so I see things in an abstract manner. I had to rely on body language to communicate. As a result, I paint expressionistic and abstractly. Movement is very important to the evolution of my creative process, like capturing the spirit of, or feeling of, or a thought.

I love to start with literal objects. I become inspired to change that object into an abstraction. As I experiment, color becomes the defining element in the affair. I work turning the canvas sideways, upside down and right side up. I'll plan out the division of space and which direction I want the movement to go. Then something wonderful happens, my painting takes on its own life. It becomes a deep search of finding balance of color, texture, positive and negative space. I allow the canvas to show me the course. Through meditative thought I come to a new plane of understanding. Searching for the balance in shapes and texture. It is like plugging into the creative universe.

An example of this technique is best describe with the subject matter of pregnancy or love’s passion. Flowing lines would translate to the anticipation of unknown pending joy, with a color pallet that suggests the stillness one feels while waiting. Waiting for that package to emerge. Capturing an expression by movement, composition and color: a lover’s embrace would be vibrant reds for passion and blues for the ordered feeling of nature’s fulfillment.

Any day there is light is a good day. Everywhere you look is found inspiration. I love how the soft light filtering through a window reflects on lined up bottles. How that same light makes the tips of a cat’s whiskers sparkle. Rainy days and sunshine, windy days and calm nights; all have their unique lighting, reminiscent of a stage play. Discovering how it plays out is an adventure. Stepping into the studio is the part of an exploration that turns into a dance, where the music is color. It feels spiritual, as if I’m entering holy ground. Painting is about getting into that zone and expressing the play of light on the unique moments in time.

Expressing my unique voice through color is my, self-inflicted writ.