

Claudia Hershman

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is driven by a strong need to create, to experiment with materials and by a love of color, pattern and shape. Inspiration comes from many trips I have made to South Africa, where I have a large family. People that I observed, tribal patterns, and a very different lifestyle made a deep impression on me. My inspiration also comes from the freedom and innocence in children's art and the work of Outsider Artists who, without training, create from a strong need to express themselves. Charles McGee, a mentor, rarely repeats a pattern in the same way and encourages experimentation and exploration of materials. Gustav Klimt's patterns show that variety and interest can be created by repetition. I love the whimsy and color in the work of Paul Klee and Miro.

Exploring my unique voice continues to be an exciting journey. My work has evolved from representational pieces, to experimental printmaking, which led to collage, and that sparked my interest in abstraction. In the past few years, I have experimented with random marks, shapes and a variety of materials. I collect found objects, text, and other ephemera to use in my work. The images in recent paintings come from my subconscious, as I don't plan what to paint. I work in multiple layers with pencils, paint, collage papers, and markers. Figures and forms emerge as I add and subtract paint and paper to the canvas. I strive for a balance between color and pattern until the composition is harmonious.