

Robin Reynolds - Artist Statement - May 2019

I embrace the notion of beauty and create luminous, lush, layered surfaces both outside painting plein-air from spring to fall, as well as inside during the fallow, months of winter making black and white mixed media collages. I paint and find inspiration watching the lifecycle of nature. The flowers and plants act as a catalyst, allowing me to manipulate paint and create a dance between abstraction and representation. In the same way I depict my garden outside, I begin my collages with an image, shape or line that catches my eye in the moment. The resulting image embraces the same feminine associations of gardens and beauty through the fragility of material, warmth of tone and nostalgic and personal images used.

My garden is my sanctuary. An intuitive approach of playful and energetic mark making begins a process of looking, layering, wiping away and building up of a surface celebrating the exuberance of color and line found within nature. Instead of depicting a time-anchored botanical or geographical exactitude I work in a series of three to seven sittings welcoming weather and the passage of days to transform my viewpoint. The garden serves solely as a guide for my organic process within my outside studio.

In my inside studio, the collages are formed and transformed by looking and responding. Transfers from vintage gardening encyclopedias and books are peeled away like Crackerjack tattoos. Antique lace is sacrilegiously cut up from a 1920's Swiss sample book discovered from Brimfield Fair Flea Market, along with linocut rubbings, acrylic paint, sharpies, oil sticks and graphite used to continue with the layering process.

In today's world, with such a vulnerable environment at the forefront of politics, beauty and spirituality play a pivotal role within my work. In both my paintings and in my collages, I strive to capture the essence of a place through its' growth, bloom and decay. These natural rhythms of nature create a lyrical energy, a poetic mediation occurs and the end result always has the ability to surprise me, spurring me to create even more.