



Artist Statement

Complex Simplicity series

My art has always explored the 'extraordinary' that is hidden in the 'ordinary'. I call myself a happiness enthusiast, although my personal relationship to happiness has been rocky. What I have learned is that happiness is a choice we make daily. My art is about sharing happiness, and reminding us of that choice.

My artistic process allows for limitless variation within self imposed constraints. For me this mirrors the opportunities for joy and humour in everyday life and relationships.

Using only simple shapes - circles and right-angled shapes - I construct the images. Colour is a vital ingredient and again I have constrained my options to a palette of ten, plus black and white.

To create my paintings I use a modified version of a process called mono-transfer. I begin by mixing a beautiful colour. I paint it onto a sheet of a special plastic and leave it to dry. Then I mix many versions of the same colour; some dark, some light, some intense, some muted. These too are painted onto plastic sheets and left to dry. The coloured sheets are then cut into circles and right-angled shapes - squares or rectangles. I use both the positive and negative shapes - that is the circle and the shape left when it was cut out. These are then assembled collage-like on wood panels and adhered with an acrylic polymer. The plastic is removed when the bond has dried. (I reuse or recycle as much of the plastic as is possible.)

Each painting is created in layers. The first layer activates my imagination. The second begins to tell me a story. The third and subsequent layers are where the image becomes clear to me. It is always a happy surprise.

For me the final step of my creative process happens when my art is placed in the viewers personal environment where it can continuously remind and evoke happiness.

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