

Dear Viewer,

Thank you for taking time to look at my painting. You might want to ask yourself:

What place stacked your bones into the shape of you? - Brian Rutenberg

This question often returns as I paint because I am always wondering and exploring why I like or dislike particular shapes or colors or lines.

Being a non-representational abstract painter means I paint from inside of me, from my imagination and mental process and not from something I am looking at in the physical world. This kind of painting is a dance between my right brain and my left brain: the right brain is in a creative mode and is in a conversation with the painting while the left brain is using my knowledge of design principles (Value, Line, Shape, Hue, Texture) to invite the viewer to look around the painting surface and focus on the important bits.

This kind of painting happens. It isn't planned. It is from who I am, from my past and from the way I experience and interact with the world. And, being of "a certain age" there is a lot of past to inform or influence my painting.

In many of my paintings I want to create that sense of history. I do that in two ways: I use windows into the back layers of the painting and I use glazing so that the under layers show through to some degree. Because I also want to create a sense of mystery I leave the history a little fuzzy, out of focus or harder to read. They have to be searched for or studied.

In these paintings, "Summer Series," I set out with two parameters: the set of hues I would use and that I would start with a trapezoidal monolith arising from the bottom of each painting. (As painting #3 of the series developed, I re-oriented the painting so that the trapezoid is now at the top of the painting.)

Each painting became a view of a warm, slightly tropical, slightly wild and strange out-of-doors with the juxtaposition of manmade forms: the monolith and other rectilinear structures. They are familiar places to me although I cannot place them in a real time and space.

Are they familiar to you?

July 2023

