Title of series: A Way of Thinking

Marianne Trotter

The 4 pieces of my series are framed, 14 x 14, acrylic and collage, on watercolor paper, mounted on wood panel

My art practice did not actually begin in earnest until 2021. From an early age, I was interested in art, inspired by my dad who was a commercial artist for the local newspaper. My school projects always had an artistic twist. I remember my dad giving me wonderful tips for executing my project ideas. Later as a classroom teacher, I incorporated my love of art into the curriculum, remembering my dad’s pointers, and motivating my students to express their learning in a visual way.

Today I am a painter in acrylics and mixed media. I began with a workshop in 2006, having retired early and living in Germany. Finally, I had the time to dedicate to my art practice. I began with abstract realism, copying magazine pictures, learning basic skills in color and design. Over a 6 year span, I produced about 20 paintings and had my first show in Frankfurt. But I was feeling very inadequate. I felt like I really didn’t know what I was doing. I had a show, but felt like an imposter. I was such a “beginner”with so little experience. Even my time in the studio was inconsistent. My husband and I often took advantage of traveling opportunities during those years living in Europe. I was gathering wonderful memories and experiences to add to my toolbox, but the discipline of daily practice in the studio was sporadic.

Then it all changed in 2021. I began a program, PDPC, that provided the foundation I needed. I learned so much about design, emotional and personal connections to my art choices, and developing a confidence in expressing my soul in my work. I fell in love with abstract, non-objective art. It speaks to me as no other does. Watercolor or pastel is lovely, but just not my interest. I am always amazed by photorealism, but have no interest in pursuing that genre. I love color, exuberant color at times, and playing with different color palettes. Line and shape intrigue me. And texture, both visual and physical, often finds its way into my work. I love working in a series. I have discovered that common threads reveal themselves, sometimes planned consciously in an effort to bring cohesion to the works by paying attention to the design elements. But sometimes it happens randomly and these similarities cry out for attention. And it’s those surprises that make the whole experience so gratifying!

These 4 paintings reveal my interest in bold lines, both curvilinear and rectilinear, high contrast in color and shapes. There is whimsy in each piece. I feel confidant in sharing these pieces.