Artist statement for Joyce Stephen

I believe that art is a reflection of our past and present lives. I have always loved abstracts so happily started my art journey there! I enter my studio each day with joy and gratitude intuitively putting marks and paint on my canvas. I have no idea where my creative process will take me - Each stroke influencing the next – then the next, until the artwork informs a direction and an exciting balance is reached. My abstracts focus on shapes, line and color and hopefully evoke a sense of joy!

For my current series I have combined abstracts with figures. I love the back and forth play of the abstract with the figure. She blends in with the abstract shapes - yet still stands out. This give and take I believe is influenced by my 35 years working in the computer field as a computer programmer and analyst. When I started this career – the computer field was dominated by men. I learned very quickly that the only way I could prove I was worthy and capable of the job was to assert myself. The trick was knowing when to stay quietly in the background and when to speak up. We wouldn’t want to seem pushy! Thankfully, today seems to hold no such boundaries for women - but I know the struggle remains. I hope the women I paint show their confident and bold attitude.