

## Painting a Passion for Life

Through painting, I explore connections between human, animal and natural worlds. The human face and flesh, animal eyes, skins, bones and feathers speak to me revealing life's wonder and mystery. Inspiration for the work comes from sources ranging from ancient wisdom traditions to modern depth-psychology and contemporary physics; timeless philosophies suggesting the interconnectedness of all life, and reminding us of an instinctive orientation towards relatedness where seeming opposites of matter and spirit, masculine and feminine, darkness and light exist in harmony. Working with archetypal images culled from nature, myth, art history and my own dreams and reflections, a montage of colorful visual impressions emerges, forming new narratives celebrating life's complexity, diversity and unity; and also it's amazing beauty.

Study of the methods and materials of master painters informs my practice, working with rich oil pigments, glazing and incorporating textural layers of paint to create a sense of depth or inter-dimensionality. Working figuratively, intuitive mark making and color enter the picture, infusing energy. The paintings thus become a personal expression of primal life force; a reverence for nature's constantly changing, yet continuous cycles, and our human place within it. A set of recurring images and motifs connects me with the ancient feminine, and links with contemporary feminist art through a shared lineage of archetypal pattern expression and conscious exploration of psyche as force of nature and source of feminine creative power.