

Artist Statement

There are two bodies of work represented in this show: abstract collages and drawings from observation. The collaged compositions start as explorations between color, shape, texture and line. Careful thought is given to how edges and lines meet and the passages and spaces between elements in the piece. Although the collages start as purely formal pieces, as I work they often begin to feel like landscapes. Shapes used often represent leaves, petals or boats.

My drawings almost always begin with a specific subject. For me, it is important to accurately record what is observed. Once I have done this, I feel free to make gestural marks in response to the forms, edges and details I discover as I work. Most of the subjects in this series are flowers from my small urban garden. This space is filled with plants that attract all sorts of birds and beneficial insects. When I am making marks I often try to convey some of the life and energy I feel coming from the garden creatures and plants and their textures, scents, colors and sounds. The media used are those that can be layered and manipulated. Charcoal is a favorite because it can be moved and redirected with an eraser; it also produces a velvety black that contrasts with the shiny marks graphite makes. Acrylic paint is very versatile and dries quickly and is sometimes used when color is desired.

Suanne Peterson

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