

Yolanda Sánchez

Elaboration of Artist Statement:

The garden is, for me, a metaphor or container of the many meandering emotions and fantasies that affect and shape my interior life. The garden is a kind of embracing perimeter (nature) that gathers my awareness of being and my experiences of moving with and living among other beings, places and things. My work moves forward as I embrace these experiences. It is very much tied to my spiritual life and to mystery. As I evolve as a human being, the work evolves. Because I still identify myself as a healer, my work aspires to offering something restorative – but in the sense of facilitating a connection. The connection is with me and through me. I am attempting to capture and project an energy or spirit – impermanent, moving, changing. The subject is *being*.

Matisse said that he painted what he himself needed to see. Through color, mark-making and texture, I am activating what I need, also leading the viewer into a kind of intimacy – a closeness, a “participatory sensuality” - feeling a material presence. It is something abstract, yes, but I want there to be something very tangible and physical about the work. I do think of it as a kind of dance, reflecting my own early experiences with movement. I paint it as a dance and I want the viewer to dance with me. The “empty” spaces provide pauses and an opening to enter, opportunities to complete the painting. Vibration, rhythm, stillness. Presence without form.

The great Swiss psychiatrist, Carl Jung, urged that we must find a way to get everything back into connection with everything else. My task as the metaphorical gardener is to weed out and cultivate the images that facilitate the connections I desire – connection that make me feel I am part of all living beings - to identify those experiences that “widen out the boundaries of my being” and translate those into painting.