

Paula Friedman

Artist Statement

It wasn't until 2005, when I picked up my first digital camera, that photography gave me the language to express my awe of, and intimacy with nature. I marvel at Nature's amazing tapestries, the fabric of our natural world that she weaves on her "lume" of light, with warps and wefts of richly diverse textures and forms, seduced by the lure of their ever-shifting contours and opacities.

Initially, my images were mostly representational, then, gradually, I moved towards taking the viewer into Nature's world of abstraction and directing attention to her impressionistic, and sometimes surreal, objets d'art.

Always fascinated with the interaction of light and glass, I embraced an opportunity to work with hot glass at Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y. Passionately intrigued by the optics that emerge from works using this incredible medium, I began to photograph my glass pieces and then through them; a lens within a lens. My interest in the abstract grew.

In the summer of 2016 I discovered alcohol inks and began another creative journey. Alcohol ink is a permanent ink that moves freely on non-porous surfaces. The pigments are particularly vibrant, and the challenge is to exert some control over them before the transporting alcohol evaporates. Since the chemical reaction when one color meets another is very unpredictable, "going with the flow" makes each design unique. Most designs are abstract, but sometimes the inks move and start to tell a story, so some are more representational than others. As no two are alike, the creative process is different every time. In addition to using the inks on ceramic tile, I have used them on Yupo paper, glass, and most recently on velum.

In the Fall of 2017, I began to experiment with acrylics, and I fell in love all over again. This new medium posed brand new challenges. I continued to pursue my interest in abstraction and began exploring the use of stencils, textured objects and tools, along with experimenting with a variety of acrylic mediums to create colorful textured surfaces that are both visually and tactually inviting.

Across mediums I continue to explore the interactions between colors, forms, and textures, and if there is a common thread, it's a sense of playfulness and whimsy mixed with a little bit of mystery.