

# ARTIST STATEMENT

By Sally Bruno

Even though my painting employs an abstract vocabulary, I feel that it is also representational in that I work from images in my environment and experiences that I interact with on a daily basis. The paintings begins as a relationships I chose to recall from daily memory translated into shapes that have to then make sense visually. The stories I begin with are more of an impression than a narrative, and I retell this through carefully considered painted forms. Every element is important: composition pigments, shapes, palette, texture, thickness and opaqueness and how these elements interact with one another. I am in charge of creating—decision by decision---the visual language and the eventual impact of an imagined world. I think of my painting as invented —realities even-- that exist in my mind where anything is possible.

The materiality of paint is integral to my process and thinking. The viscosity of the material suggests sculpting in two dimensions. I use brushstrokes, patterns, forms, lines and dense paint to create physical representations; figures and objects that reside in two dimensions yet have

a sensuality that is greater than that. I use the objects in the paintings to create abstractions that are unique to themselves and living in their own space but also coexisting with the other objects in everyday environments.

I break down everything I depict so that it is form and reads as an abstract vocabulary. My goal is to determine exactly what is enough to suggest an object while still leaving room for uncertainty, ambiguity and interpretation. I am interested in the moments when a clunky, paint-encrusted form, is seen as a stand-in for a table adorned with a cloth or the fleeting moment when yet various brushstrokes trigger the mind to see a vase. These moments, when abstract forms become objects or objects become forms creating a push and pull that fascinates me because it raises questions about the clarity of experience the slipperiness of perception and the tangibility of reality. I am interested in the intersection where abstraction meets and departs from representation, where there is something more, something mysterious, and you discover just how far you can push your mind to see the potentially infinite possibilities of it all. Like a curious traveler, I hope to always push myself further and further through into new terrain.

