

Jonathan Stewart

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

www.jonathanstewartart.com

I have been a Naval photographer and videographer, a graphic designer for print and online media, a custom logo designer, and a fine artist.

Creating art satisfies a need to express myself visually and I find pleasure in achieving balance and order through shapes and color.

I am happy to create art whether anyone else sees it or not. I find it's enjoyable to hear reactions from others and I like to think that my works may eventually make a difference in people's lives, possibly by stimulating them to create art on their own, serve as a source of pleasure to those who view them, and maybe even transform an environment.

I have always had a natural sense of design and as a young man I became fascinated with the way aerial maps of rural and urban areas resolved into interesting shapes, beautiful regardless of their intended use. I was inspired by new designs for Center City Philadelphia proposed by the city planner, Edmund Bacon, and I became interested in how lifestyles could be nurtured and even controlled by well-planned architecture. I was surprised and excited by finding that the resulting shapes of the planned areas, as seen in aerial views, reduced easily to Mondrian-like abstractions. This interest in fitting and planning coalesced into the creation of my digital abstract art.

My freehand images arise more simply from a feeling of fun and experimentation: "What if I do this?" It's always a learning and discovering process -- and the best thing is, it never stops! My styles are diverse, sometimes from nowhere, sometimes inspired by others.

What is it about the work of other artists that has influenced me? The design sense and oddness of Miro; the dreamlike visions of Dali that played with the concept of mutable physicality; the simple but powerful realism encapsulated in the early work of Picasso and his later cubist work, which went from outrageous goofiness to Guernica; Mondrian because he reduced balance and composition to the starkest, most simplistic level conceivable; Rothko for his use of color; and finally Morris Louis for his ability to use very thin washes of paint to achieve brilliant melds of color in his 'veil' paintings.

What is on my mind as I begin working on an artwork? "Let's see what happens today!"

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