

Color, line and rhythm like to feel their way into what I do.

My interests revolve around a few themes and endless variations and varieties of figure/ground/flat/round/exaggerations and permutations

... riffing on endless subtitles and expressions with visuals in paint, pencil, ink, mixed media, photography... working like jazz does with volume, timbre, solo vs. ensembles.

The basics being: figure/ground, figure/air, figure/water or no figure – go figure!

As a kid, I took piano lessons for years with the nuns. Piano was my first love and I learned to read music, played some classics, learned some fingerings – but not how to swing!

Now and then I improvise on piano and sing my own songs. Jazz is an inspiration and constant companion. Also the sound that calls me to come out and play, to be more alive.

If I didn't have a talent for visual art, I'd have devoted myself totally to music and writing.

As a visual artist, I started out as a sculptor whose concerns were all about handling three-dimensional shape and mass– static vs. dynamic, the size of things and tactile issues of surfaces and considerations of the nature of various materials – grains in wood, longevity of bronze etc. I explored additive methods - creating from scratch with clay, wax and plaster vs. subtractive – carving wood and stone. My sculpture was mostly derived from the human figure in its myriad manifestations depicted by cultures prehistoric, pre-literate, non-western and western and contemporary.

Now I'm immersed in creating two-dimensional images in various media on canvas and paper and want to “propagate” most of them – make some grafts, some cuttings, some hybrids, some cross-pollination of images with my poetry, song lyrics and photography. Thinking of visual art like music recordings and live sessions with ensembles.

A hundred-some line drawings of figures sit on my drawing table waiting to be turned into something symphonic, something jazzy with a New Orleans sound and feel.

Like seeds...in various sketch books, some pages yellow-edged...or like grapes maybe...ready to go to press to have another life.