

DIANE DAVIS – ARTIST STATEMENT

Discovering my place in the arts came slowly but once I found it, I knew it had been there waiting for me since my childhood in rural Illinois when my grandfather's little farm on the plains of the Midwest was the center of my universe. In the winter my friends and I played endlessly in the pure winter snow that went on as far as the eye could see - making snow men, snow angels and having snow ball fights. In the summer my eyes filled with the vivid palette of bright green fields cascading with wild flowers, and the intense blue-black stains of blackberries on my hands and feet. It was a simpler time when children played games in their yards and freshly washed clothes dried on the clotheslines.

The summer game I loved the most was making mud pies. Mine were no ordinary mud pies – they were mixed media mud pies. “Any object or little creature in my earthen studio became fair game. Insects, worms, leaves, flowers, and stones all got incorporated into my mud pies. I delighted in them. I got lost in the world of creation when I made mud pies. It was just me, my imagination, and all the resources that nature set in my path.”

Now I realize it was those rich, sensory images of my childhood that led me to the art I am doing today.

The flow of our urban environment, specifically the clustering and the dissolving of groups of people inspires me to focus on composition in my paintings. For me this is one of the most important formal elements of art. On my daily travels I observe the natural flow of people as they go about their activities; I see the same composition repeated over and over. I see a consistent flow of people moving about randomly and abstractly, congregating in groups of 3's, 2's and 5s. My observation is that 3 is the most significant of these numbers, clusters of 3's are repeated over and over. One person moves from a cluster of 3, someone else will suddenly appear from a doorway. I see an imbalance that creates a new balance in these significant numbers. I'm astonished and inspired by this scene picture and compelled to compose my canvas based on these findings. While my composition appears to be random, my non-objective abstract images are strategically placed on my canvas using opposing colors, mixed media, and collage materials.