

Debra Beers

Artist Statement

The Space Between

Gloves protect, conceal, orchestrate and lead. Like the gloves of a puppet master directing a marionette, the human species largely controls the natural world.

I wrestle with pulling a root from the earth. The human-centered paradigm tells me that this is my given right; it goes without question. With these drawings and paintings, I am offering reflection about this uneasy relationship. Nature is honored for what it is, not for what it provides. I strive to take the gloves off and gently press the earth with humility and awe.

Ahimsa

She knows, he feels, she suffers, he protects, she lifts her head to smell, he fears, she touches with affection. He struggles, she returns back home, he sings, she mourns, he feels pain, she is. With these paintings, I seek to address that the nonhuman animal's being-ness, individuality and significance is equivalent to the human animal. It is my hope that with this recognition of animal "personhood," empathy and compassion will result.

Ted Vogel

Artist Statement

I have always been a collector of objects, and a maker of spare parts. In my work these “parts” are made of clay, kiln cast glass, digital images and other mixed media elements. My interest in working with clay, glass, cast iron, the photographic image and other materials is in what each material gives to the work, light, color, transparency, depth, strength, weight, illusion, fragility, etc.

The ceramic elements are formed and fired using a variety of techniques and finished in a range of surfaces and colors that embrace my ideas of symbolism and metaphor.

Reflecting the traditions of ceramic and glass figurines and the kitsch ceramics of the 1930s, '40s and '50s, my work explores ideas of story telling and allegory and references our inseparable relationship to the natural world, the body, humanness and our complex and precarious interactions with humankind.

These stories are derived from mythology of our vast history and family tales that are passed down from generation to generation, and from the so-called “true stories” of our time, often created by public myth.