

Joan Stuart Ross
Short Biography 2015

<http://www.joanstuartross.com>

Joan Stuart Ross is a contemporary Northwest artist working in encaustic, mixed media painting and monotype. She has an MA and MFA from the University of Iowa, a BA from Connecticut College and studied at Yale and the University of Washington. Joan has won the Betty Bowen Award from the Seattle Art Museum, the Kathe Kollwitz Award for her advocacy of women artists, a Rome Fellowship from the NW Institute, an Artist's Project Award from 4Culture and a Fulbright-Hays Grant to Vietnam. Joan has had residencies at the Espy Foundation, Pilchuck, Centrum, and Playa. Her work is exhibited nationally and internationally, and is represented by Patricia Cameron Gallery, Seattle, Ryan James Fine Art, Kirkland, Waterworks Gallery, Friday Harbor, WA, and RiverSea Gallery, Astoria, OR. Her art is included in many collections such as the Seattle Art Museum, State of WA, King County, Seattle Portable Works, Harborview Medical Center, the UW Suzzalo Library and the Museum of NW Art. Joan has served on several community art boards: Seattle Print Arts, the Bumbershoot Festival Commission, Seattle Arts Commission and the NW Institute. Joan taught Art at the college level for many years; she maintains her studios at BallardWorks, Seattle, and in Nahcotta, WA.

Artist's Statement

I experiment with visual ideas in a manner similar to the scientific method. My work begins, changes and returns to its roots over time. Trial, error, chance and plan lead my eye and hand. I look for an uplifting sensibility in my use of materials and in my decisions. I examine the spirit of physical, mental and emotional places, their metaphysical properties and mysteries, and how we inhabit them. I create non-linear narratives that celebrate color, depth, sensuality and light in their dominion over potential opacity.

Some inspiration draws from the Great Basin's windy "high lonesome," the Northwest's fog and mist, the ecstatic race of surf and spume and the woven subtext of personal history. My work is obsessive and repetitive. I layer, carve, scrape, assess and reassess. I combine painting and the intaglio process in layers of medium, embedded collage, and incised expressive lines filled with color. Layers of visual information, grids, tangents and trajectories connect, cross and convene to reveal what happens on and underneath the surface.