

Karin Batten
Artist Statement

In my mixed media paintings I improvise with color, texture and shape. My travels to India, and residencies in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and Valparaiso, Mojacar, in southern Spain influence the light, color and texture in my work. Light illuminates and captures the exotic atmosphere and textures of the land and water visited. The many different materials I use create complex and poetic works layered with meaning of open seas and land. I incorporate acrylic, hand colored rice paper, charcoal, water-soluble crayons and dyes to add depth and texture. Soil and black magna contrast with washes of watercolor. I play organic shapes against geometric patterns. Some forms are scraped and layered while others are fully present. I work spontaneously and intuitively.

Since I moved to New York City I have been fascinated by the scale of its buildings, reminiscent of mountains and deep valleys. I have always been fascinated by unique perspectives and interesting vantage points, particularly the birds-eye-view, which evokes feelings of freedom and alludes to the vastness of space. Flights over New York City and its five surrounding boroughs opened my eyes to beautiful views of the urban landscape. Watching New York from above, the seemingly fragmented city merges into one cohesive unit, that needs the collective in order to continue to evolve, grow, and prosper. The colors of the oils sticks that I use all individually influence the canvas' overall image. However, it is not until the many layers, textures, strokes and colors intertwine that the composition comes into focus and the true magnificence of New York City's skyline and terrain is captured.