

Peggy Bates

Artist Statement

The source for my art lies in a desire to embrace landscape within contemporary culture. I explore notions of travel, dislocation, and the human desire to traverse through the process of making paintings that reflect places I've visited and/or lived. To create the works, I rely on memory, sensory recollection, and ephemera that I collect along the way. My main focus is the peculiarities of each location's topography and the boundaries between land and bodies of water.

What resonates in my paintings is an underlying emotional relationship between exterior landscapes and the impressions of the human interior. Reflections of travel are captured in the flow of paint, its direction determined by real or imagined experience. To create each work, I pour layers of liquid paint [on to] the canvas. This process involves a continuous interplay of manipulation and chance. The paintings develop into an arrangement of metaphorical elements from sensual to surreal-like shapes, sometimes in highly charged hues or soft, floating masses of large pools of paint spilled across the ground. Perception is exaggerated in an organic play of paint as shapes and forms are stretched and pulled.

To create the pieces, I consider both details observed during my travels and factual details from maps of each location, setting off the experience of the personal with cultural data. Each painting is titled with the name of the location that was the source of inspiration.

I encourage viewers to uncover their own sense of the power of fantasy and dream through an exploration of the work.