

# Nancy Stephani

## ARTIST STATEMENT

My paintings capture the energy patterns of emotion on canvas using color, pattern and light. I'm evoking a mood... a state of mind...an internal event...something fluid and malleable rather than something existing solidly in the universe of here and now. I'm not trying to paint water or sky, but rather, the way water and sky feel. A tangible artifact of a fleeting moment so maybe you can go there again.

My work combines acrylic painting with assemblage, primarily metal and other found objects. I'm self taught so the style and techniques are my own creation. I've spent a few years refining the work to a point where these two very disparate elements work together to create a completely coherent whole. This is something I'm very proud of, getting all the materials to work together in a totally integrated fashion.

I think color speaks very directly to our feelings and I like to use it in an emotional way. I work with many thin, transparent layers of paint in order to create subtle, lush color that you can almost fall into. This depth is very important in my painting; in some areas you can see all the way down to the base color. I work with the patterns created in this way to build up the shading and texture of the piece. I'm always trying to capture that certain shade of tropical lagoon at noon aqua that makes me want to cry.

The assemblage pieces serve to ground the work and give it focus. I like to use weathered metal and other found objects because they have a history, a story of their own to tell. They were something else before they became part of a painting; they have a sort of ambiguity that I like. They are out of context and yet they create a context of their own within the painting.

I like the idea of being able to escape from my ordinary state of mind and look at the world from a slightly altered perspective. That's why I've chosen to do this kind of work. I really think that looking at this stuff can take you someplace else.