



Artist Statement

I paint muscular and organic forces and create these tensions using color as a textural element to make shapes that produce whimsical or dramatic form. Moving physically through daily life can trigger a memory, a dream, or a temporary sense of place that in turn offers moments of inspiration. The titles I assign to my work often identify what, where, or how I was inspired to create my art. Compositions and the imageries generated emerge from the juxtaposition and intersection of the imaginative and the real. The title of my exhibition Velvet Air relates to how I engage my imagination in the process of making, and is a term I use to describe a sensation of air velvety on my skin with a temperature in perfect alignment with my own. On occasion in the outdoors I experience the imagined sensation of velvet air on my skin and also in a reoccurring dream since childhood finding myself flying or swimming through an enveloping, undulating dreamscape lush with color, gorgeous birds, and shimmery fish.

My art making process, the techniques employed, and materials used vary. Often applied are sections of silk cloth that I have painted and coated with gel medium to build layers and stabilize elements placed onto the canvas surface. I find that the layered surface provides a structured compositional format for developing imagery. Sometimes prepared leaves and found objects or my own drawings and photographs are imbedded between the cloth layers or pressed onto the canvas. My paintings may include recognizable and repetitive forms and motifs derived from my perceived environment. I hope my art attracts a closer look so viewers may embrace their own imaginative and interpretive processes.

Ginny O'Brien, November 2017