

STATEMENT
DIALOGUE, FOREST HILL GALLERY
2002

The abstract painting does not explain: it offers suggestion. It is an open space to park your perception, epiphanies, even fears. That which informs my work does not have to be evident to the viewer, their only requirement is to be open.

I see painting as wordless poetry, and when the palette knife leads, I follow. It is a process of exploration, distillation and redemption. There is always that possibility of not knowing, but with intuition, practice and trust, the painting paints itself.

I choose vibrant colours because armies of black and grey lay siege wherever they can in our industrial world. The images in the work speak to the complex dynamics in relationships – support, observance, vulnerability, declaration, loss, separateness, harmony, anxiety, surrender, love, resilience – these are all aspects of life manifested in layers, gouges, colours and organic shapes. The poetic interplay of such forms is not unlike the people and experiences that shape us. History, sociology, geography: each impacts us.

“The process of painting is constantly a self criticism; is this the truth or not? Truth, authenticity, integrity. The game is not about worldly success; the real game is between oneself and that virgin canvas and to end up with a canvas that is no less beautiful than the empty canvas is to begin with”. (Robert Motherwell)