



Sandra L. Tolman Artist's Statement Newark Arts Alliance Juried Exhibition Show: UP CLOSE IN THE GARDEN May – June 2017



Expression:

Much of my artwork tends towards either presentations of specific objects and points of view – or arrangements of lines, colors and textures which may evoke wonder, fascination, balance or chaos. Nature, poetry, fantasy, imagination and non-objective composition are common themes. I love to experiment. Conceptual ideas are often fluid and I am drawn to dualities. Something may be more than one thing at once or ambiguous spaces are deliberately left to allow the viewers to interact with the creative process of interpretation, much like staring at clouds.

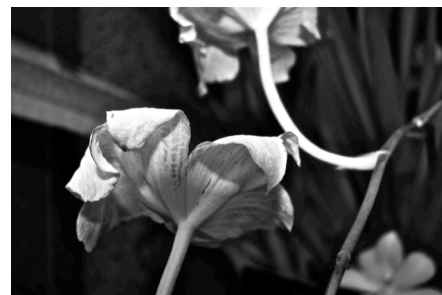
Mixed Media:

Texture is often a key element in much of my recent work. For the last few years, I have been working with various non-fired and air-drying clays. The light weight and ability to have rough / torn edges (much like paper or cloth) is vastly, immensely appealing. Many times, the final works are framed in shadow boxes to allow for delicate forms and depth. My mixed media work often incorporates air dry clays, metal such as copper parts or wires, water color, ink, polymer enamels, wood, trash, feathers, shells and other natural or found elements.

Up Close in the Garden:

“Fire Moss” and “Rice Paper” are close up photographs of floral or vegetative subjects. In black and white, “Rice Paper,” shows darker spots that formed on the underside of a white orchid reminiscent of vertical lines water-blurred Asian calligraphy. “Fire Moss” is a vibrant, low-light image of fiery red sporophytes (or leaf-like stalks and forms) on moss.

“Tiny Visitor in the Garden” is completely hand-made inside a glass dome on a wooden base. ALL the elements – even the sprout or twig, tiny ‘pebbles’ and bits of dirt or bark are all made of air-dry clay, wool or paper hand-painted with water color or inks. Even the wool is painted. Like a day-dream or whimsical memory of discovering a tiny visitor in the garden – or a child’s tale . . . it is a playful adventure. The dragonfly, glass raindrop or dewdrop of sorts, leaves and buds are arranged like a planned garden to show a different composition or garden view from each angle – all in miniature as the tiny visitor is about the size of the leaves it is sitting on.



Photography

Abstract photography calls to me. Shadows, splashes of light, textures, bits of trash, rusted metal, cracks in sidewalks, edges of trees or buildings and power lines crossing the sky . . . the focus tends to be more towards details or close ups, points of view, interesting bits of things or angles that catch my eye. There are over a hundred photographs in my “Luminumbra” collection, a term I coined to describe light cast or reflected through translucent objects onto dark or shadowed areas. I am fascinated by random objects and by plants, stones and creatures.