

Fine Art intelligence

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FAi: When did you realize you wanted to be an artist?

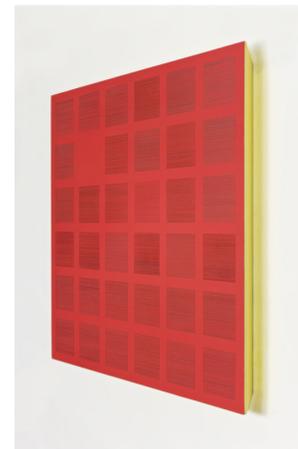
SS: I wanted to be an artist since I was 5 years old. My mother was an artist and art teacher (jewelry, ceramics and painting). I spent my childhood in museums and went to special after school classes in elementary school. When I was in JHS I studied with the wonderful artist Anna Meltzer who's studio was on 57 St in a penthouse before the neighborhood became so fancy. Then I studied at the HS of Music and Art and my plan to be an artist was cemented.

FAi: Who are your influences?

SS: I have been inspired by so many kinds of art. As a young person I spent many hours in front of Pollack's painting "Autumn Rhythm" at the Metropolitan Museum. I loved the impressionists- Van Gogh and Monet, and the symbolist, Odilon Redon. As a professional artist I go to numerous museums and galleries to see living artists work. Recently I have been influenced by the Indian Modernist, Nashreen Mohamedi.

FAi: When/where did you learn the techniques you employ in your silverpoint art works?

SS: I am self taught in silverpoint. I learned of the technique quite by accident, I was visiting a friend in the Hamptons and she was using silverpoint and showed it to me. At the time I was making finer and finer ink line drawings and fine pencil drawings. Silverpoint just spoke to me. In the 1970's I developed a large network of other silverpoint artists who have share technique ideas. But mostly I figured out how the medium could work for me by trial and error.



"Harmonizations II"
(2015) 24" x 24" gold,
silver copperpoint, black
and yellow gesso on
paper on panel

FAi: Do you listen to music when you are creating art?

SS: I used to, but mostly I listen to talk radio on NPR, but sometimes I play my husbands CD's or popular music.



Intermezzo 19" (2015) 12" x 12" x 2.25" tin, silver, gold, copperpoint, graphite, green gesso on wood panel

FAi: What is your greatest achievement?

SS: I think showing my work with all the masters of silverpoint in the amazing show "Drawing in Silver and Gold: Leonardo to Jasper Johns" at the National Gallery of Art, Wash DC and at The British Museum, London.

FAi: What is the greatest challenge you have faced?

SS: In the 1970's my work was often dismissed because I was a woman and especially because I worked primarily on paper. I have worked very hard to have the career I have today, even when it seemed impossible.

FAi: What are your plans for the future?

SS: I am always working on new ideas and images. I just want to keep going as long as I can making metalpoint paintings and drawings. I still hope to make a special suite of etchings to go with a piece of my husband's music. We have collaborated in the past on artist books and we have one more project in mind.

Source: <http://fineartintelligence.com/susan-schwalb.html>