

**Artist Statement:**

I work in the great artistic tradition – that of reckoning with nature, consciousness, and the unknown.

My paintings mirror my vision of nature: layered, multi-colored, and saturated. In each leaf, each bit of rusted metal, and each crack in a sidewalk there is chaos, order and tension; these fragments contain universal patterns. I replicate and extend these intricate patterns through glazing and layering techniques that build up the image. I let many things happen –like chemical reactions — and guide them, paint over some, and preserve others. It is a messy process; one that to my mind reflects the entangled structures of nature and consciousness.

While much of contemporary art exalts that which is uniquely and purely human, I have no interest to separate myself, nor my art, from nature. My current subjects are the dueling powers of nature and human conquest. Sometimes I feel safer with the forces of nature (as raw and destructive as they can be) than I do with those of human endeavor, but it is the tension between the two that I find compelling and which I try to explore in my art work.

— John Schuerman