

## Artist's Statement

The imagery in my artwork is predominately theme-driven, often representational, though not always . Zen practice has shaped and informed my work for most of my adult life. More recently the art of Shukokai Karate has become a part of this narrative. Having survived breast cancer twice since 2010 has brought karate images more prominently into my body of work because I became a practitioner myself, earning a black belt in 2016 and another in 2021.

The mechanics of anatomy and bodies in motion has always been a passionate interest of mine. Dancing and performing in a mime and ballet troupe and studying at The Martha Graham School in New York as a teenager developed my appreciation for the human body as an instrument of expression. In graduate school I was fortunate to be able to draw from cadavers at Hershey Medical College which advanced my academic understanding of body mechanics as an artist.

Utilizing contemporary media is an essential part of my vision. Access to new materials and technology while working as a Scenic Artist (United Scenic Artists 829) significantly enlarged my media repertoire as well as affording me the opportunity to work in a large scale.

I always fall in love with my newest work and hope that it communicates powerfully to others. At its best I find creating artwork is a discovery and always a place where linear time stops.

Siena Gillann Porta