

Susan Brandeis

Artist's Statement

Making a textile is a kind of magic.

I make textiles because I love the rhythm of repetition and pattern, complex color contrasts, textured relief surfaces, and the feel of the materials in my hand. I savor the slow meditation of making and simple natural materials. I search for an enduring aesthetic, preferring images and concepts that transcend the personal to touch universal human themes. Fabric work has become as natural for me as breathing, and its expressions a “language” often more eloquent than speech.

For nearly three decades, I have used nature and natural phenomena as the subject matter for my work, developing dyeing, printing, piecing, weaving, and stitching techniques to construct complex relief surfaces. The works have evolved from grand views and generalized effects, to the power and uniqueness of more specific places and moments in nature; from exuberance and celebration, to elegance and poetry. Over time, both my sources of inspiration and the images I make have become more intimate, heartfelt, quiet, and reflective.