Statement

It started here in Santa Barbara. After earning my MFA at UCSB, I learned to formulate my ideas as a practicing artist during the next 12 years I spent here. I had many influences while at UCSB and immediately after, but the most important person that I had an interaction with was Eugene N. Anderson (Professor Emeritus in History, University of California Los Angeles).

I received many letters from him over an eight-year time span. He lived a reclusive life in Santa Barbara but had played an important role in the direction that post-war Europe took after the defeat of Nazi Germany in the Second World War. As head of the Central European Division of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), he picked the team of scholars that oversaw the de-nazification of Germany.

What I discovered in those letters he wrote to me about my paintings and drawings that he would see on display around town was a vast intellect. His eyes had seen the worst of mankind, yet his mind was curious to discover the possibilities that our existence in the Universe has to offer. I cannot think of a better challenge than such an intellect. It exposed me to a wide range of ideas from both the East and the West and served as a catalyst in the development of my skills as an artist. I view our interaction as a gift, one that is a special event in an artist's career.

Although my work might at first seem formal, I believe in the idea that no matter the media, content must play a central role in the creative process. During the thirty years I spent in New York City, I was exposed to important art and artists. In that milieu, one is forced to defend one's philosophy as an artist at every turn. Such competition can serve to mature and strengthen sensibilities, but over time the market-driven atmosphere became stifling. It was time to make a change and renew my creative juices.

Now that I have returned to Santa Barbara County, I am reflecting back on the forty years of my output as a visual artist. It has given me a renewed energy. I am home.