

ARTIST STATEMENT
BARBARA THOMAS

The natural world is the inspiration for my drawing, painting and multi-media work. I use all of its visual forms—plants and flowers, animals, natural phenomena such as weather, and the seasons. I assign metaphorical properties to the forms of nature, based on my personal reactions and interpretations of the way nature is viewed in the contemporary context in terms of history, aesthetics, philosophy and politics. My work begins with direct observation recorded in painting and photography. I create a story for myself that centers around anthropomorphized natural forms, likening and relating their experiences to human experience. Graphically manipulating colors, forms, and contexts, I give natural forms a new kind of life and new relationships, with each other, and with the manmade world.