



WALKER FINE ART

DON QUADE | Artist Statement

The relationship between opposite and competing elements found in nature and every day life are a great source of inspiration in the creation of my paintings.

Every painting tells a story of people, places, experiences and the mystery and wonder of living. Sections within a single painting contain images and planes of color that are simultaneously independent and co-dependent. This coexistence of smaller compositions within a larger painting is symbolic of the interconnectivity shared between all living and inanimate objects.

Using the garden as metaphor, my current work focuses on the transitional and transformative phases of life cycles, specifically exploring the issues of chaos vs. order and creation vs. destruction. Utilizing both representational and abstractive techniques, through my paintings I view the importance of the garden as a fundamental pivot where nature and culture convene and transform one another.

When I begin painting, a layer of gesso is applied generously and randomly, creating a foundation in which spontaneously applied textures and scoring becomes important in the overall surface of the finished painting. Paint is then thinly layered on in sections and often masked and painted over several times until the right amount of history is both revealed and hidden from view. This intuitive technique of painting, masking and then re-painting until I am satisfied is equal parts creation and destruction. My goal is to find an aesthetically pleasing middle ground between the conflicting and driving forces found in every day life, specifically the simple and complex. I like to think that juxtaposing these images creates a sense of 'friendly friction' that draws the viewer in for closer examination.