



Matt Christie | Artist Statement

The conceptual basis of my work is rooted in experiences of nature that began in early childhood. Something ineffable was happening in the fields and forest and by the streams and ponds I encountered. Nature had a profound effect on me, and I have been exploring that experience ever since.

My work is not directed externally but, rather, focused internally. I employ landscape as a metaphor to explore my own psychological nature and development. Over time, I've come to regard the landscape image as an integral part of myself—a form and presence that connects inner nature with outer nature. As such, my work to a certain extent serves as self-portrait, expressing such opposing forces in psychological development as death and growth, threat and safety, loneliness and relationship.

The idea that imagination can combine with outer nature and fuse, creating a third entity—what alchemists called the *subtle body*—describes my experiences from their earliest time. This subtle body is physical and mental . . . a shared reality beyond the surface or scene. As a result, my effort in the studio is not so much about the objects “out there” as the mystery of a living, mutual exploration. It's not only that I am exploring nature, but that nature is exploring me. Through this mutual dialog I hope to gain insight into my own psychological growth, drives and character.

Over time, nature and its uncanny ability to transform articulates for me the underlying experiences that evolve out of a lifelong devotion to creative work and the mysteries of nature.