



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.

For many years, I struggled to understand and express these early, and ongoing, experiences. Only after I was introduced to the works of C.G. Jung, and through my readings and discussions with analysts in the field of depth psychology, have I discovered a way to describe my experiences in nature. 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.

As a meditative image the landscape in form and energy has at the same time taken on a life of its own. As I follow the will of each image and sustain the unknown long enough for a new manifestation to appear, the natural image articulates the singular inner experience resulting from each encounter. 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.

In concrete terms, my creative practice encompasses a number of mediums including printmaking, painting and drawing.