



SHARON STRASBURG | Artist Statement

Known for her richly hued monotypes that are serene meditations on landscape, Sharon Strasburg has spent the last decade laser cutting and refashioning her works on paper into ornate nature abstractions. Rivers, rocks and roots are the inspiration for this latest body of work. Strasburg starts with representational imagery and through her unique process distills it down to pure abstraction. The resulting works mounted on panels are a rich tapestry of saturated color, pattern and variation evoking the memory of a remembered or imagined place.

Sharon draws inspiration from the marvels of America's vast landscape. The earth reveals her wonders in rivers' eroded banks exposing layers of multicolored sediment, reds and grays dotted by brown, green soil and plants, in gullies and creeks holding crystalline water whose surfaces reflect a sparkling sun with breaking waves shimmering in shades of transparent blues and greens. Beauty abounds on gray mountain walls turned gold by the morning sun or lavender in evening's light.

Strasburg believes process is more than the materials, tools and techniques it is method of thinking and building that corresponds to the message. Process is always in service to content. Hence, she begins her artworks with complex drawings expressing the undulating shapes of rivers cutting distant terrain or massive boulders carved by the cascading path of turbulent water exposing an emergent process where randomness can give rise to complex and deeply attractive, orderly structures.

She chooses printmaking to color the mysteries of Mother Nature by painting richly colored impressions of landscape on a plexiglass plate using thick highly pigmented printing inks. The ink painting is then transferred to paper under extreme pressure of a printing press. This unique work on paper is called a monotype. The press blends and imbeds the ink into the paper enhancing the subtly painted textures of nature allowing the materials to surprise in the transformations of the printmaking process mimicking nature's ways.

Finally, Sharon uses a laser to cut the variety of multi-hued monotypes along the contours of her drawn landscapes. The organic laser cut shapes are recombined into a tapestry of color, light and texture that is the resulting artwork.