

DEBORA'S TRANSITION FROM REALISM TO ABSTRACTION

Debora began to experiment with abstraction after a long period of feeling stuck and unsatisfied. Tired of reproducing photographs, she wanted something more but wasn't sure what it was.

Abstraction held a special place in Debora's heart and was usually the first place she visited in museums and galleries. Debora wanted her art to have more meaning and felt these artists were tapping into that & creating more personal art. She wanted a way to express the inexpressible.



While using art therapy with adolescents, Debora discovered she enjoyed expressing emotions through mark making and color. She began to experiment with abstraction her own. At first, she cut up photographs and focused on small sections. Using small sections helped Debora find the abstract in the real. It helped her see shapes, value, and design. She began working intuitively by reacting to marks and colors on paper and canvas.

Working abstractly has helped Debora find deeper expression and a more personal statement in her art. Realizing abstraction is not for everyone, Debora suggests you jump into it and experiment. She tells artists in her workshops to set aside a day a week to just experiment and see what happens. It is a different process than working realistically. To work abstractly you begin with a general plan but allow it to morph and develop as you react to what is in front of you. Intuition develops with more experience. Debora finds working abstractly very freeing and seldom feels stuck now.

...more About Debora: DEBORA STEWART PSA-MP, IAPS MC

"My ultimate goal as an artist is to create richly textured abstract paintings with beauty and depth that reflect the mystery and spirit of the natural world. "

Debora Stewart creates abstract paintings in pastel and acrylic. Her work is non-objective and influenced by nature. One of her major themes is exploring the use of flowers and plants in abstraction.

Stewart is a Signature Member of the Pastel Society of America and a member of the Master's Circle of the International Association of Pastel Societies. Her paintings have won awards from Pastel Journal Magazine, International Artist Magazine, and the Pastel Society of America. Her work has been included in numerous juried exhibitions and is represented by galleries and design firms throughout the United States.

Stewart is the author of a book by Northlight titled "Abstract Art Painting: Expressions in Mixed Media." She has also created a series of videos for Artists Network TV on abstract pastel painting. She has taught numerous workshops for artists throughout the USA and served as a juror for the Pastel 100 Competition of Pastel Journal Magazine.

Stewart has a BA in art education from the University of Iowa and an MSEd in counseling from Western Illinois University. After working extensively with adolescents in education and counseling for over thirty years, she is now a full-time artist working out of her studio in Iowa.

