

Silvana Bruni

ARTIST STATEMENT

Worn, battered drumheads (I drummed in an indie rock band for many years) and Lexan glass are my canvases—the unique surfaces where my visual, autobiographical narratives emerge. Informed and inspired by my own life, including the philosophy and practice of Zen Buddhism and yoga, used drumheads and glass serve as foundations for holding daily observations, quandaries, insights and revelations.

Glass has a sensuous quality of depth and space that invites the application of multiple layers. Working on Lexan allows for a more liberal array of applications, such as scratching or carving, by which I can further explore space and texture. In this work, I integrate meaningful materials from my daily surroundings: prints of clothing and other personal fabrics, thread used to stitch a pillow, a scribbled note, paint used to refinish a dresser... When these pieces combine with paint and drawings onto the glass, they build intimate, dynamic narratives.

Creating on the reverse side of the glass only, my images emerge from foreground to background. Once a mark is made, and another overtop, it is a point of no return. I welcome the surprises that result, the lack of complete control that encourages spontaneity and allows freedom and intuition into my process, as I capture a fleeting moment or the sliver of a thought or feeling.

On the other end of the spectrum, my artworks on used drumheads have very little added to the marks left from the drumsticks (in a previous act of making music), creating latent images that I see afterwards. The stippled, scuffed areas, ready and waiting, dictate the image to come; these pre-existing marks have an undeniable rhythmic energy and hover amid the minimally applied paint, paper or drawn lines as the focal point in each piece. Flames of a burning fire, spinning winds of tornados, the foliage in trees, running horses, flying birds—intimate, playful images expressing emotions and experiences—carry on from where the beat left off.

Ultimately, my work expresses human experiences. Life can be extremely busy and demanding and we need moments of stillness, as well as space, in which to connect with others. In *Buddha Mind in Contemporary Art*, artist Bill Viola expresses that it is essential to our survival and well-being that, through art and spiritual discipline, we recognize the reality of our shared experience. This idea is a truth for me that puts into words what is at the heart of my art making. I create with a personal drive to record and absorb life experiences more deeply, and to express these experiences, inviting the viewer to connect with and find meaning in what is reflected, or resonated, in front of them.