

David Frazer – Artist Statement 2008

Collage and Abstract Expressionist painting are inventions of the 20th century that have formed my aesthetic and my structural process. Controlling accident, combining historical idioms into heterogeneous images, and expression are my driving visual concerns. For me painting is the conflict between analysis and emotion, control and surrender.

My paintings are primarily abstract and lyric, improvisational, never worked from preconceived designs or drawings. Although the paintings allude to printing or transfer techniques, they do not use them. The surfaces are hand-made and each painting is unique and each image within the painting is as well. The careful articulation of these images, help me create emotional distance and temper the romantic content of the work.

The images I use in my work are iconic as well as symbolic. An apple as an old testament sign for temptation and often used in still life painting for its' pure and timeless beauty or an egg with its' perfect form and association with birth and vulnerability are familiar motifs. Tulips and their bulb roots have gesture shapes that suggest male and female figures. These flowers are made to be simultaneously free and psychologically restrained. In each painting, the meaning of apples, eggs, and tulips is suggested by context.