



ROBYN ELLENBOGEN

BORN

Brooklyn, NY

WORKS

Shrewsbury, NJ

EDUCATION

BFA, School of Visual Arts
MFA, Hunter College

MATERIALS

Metalpoint, Liquid Graphite, Colored Pencil, Egg Tempera on a prepared Gesso surface. Metalpoint is a 12th century labor-intensive drawing technique using a metal stylus or metal objects to impart an impression onto a prepared substrate.

SUBJECT MATTER

Using process and abstraction as a springboard, the work points to the ethereal and luminous. “I go where my hand and heart take me. I look to oceans, mountains, microscopic forms and the sense of pattern in nature that emerges in my work”

INSPIRATION

Major tenets of Zen Buddhism underpin the artist’s practice such as the ephemeral, chance, concentration, labor and a love of the unfolding process of nature. “I have been a student of Zen Buddhism for many years and this practice has helped deepen my compassion for everything.”

For more information:

robynellenbogen.com
stac.edu/amag

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Ellenbogen’s work is abstract yet points to the hidden patterns and magic of nature. Neo-Confucian philosophers call this “Li” which can be understood as the markings in marble or jade, the waves of the ocean and the patterns of tree bark. It refers to the underlying reason and order of nature as reflected in its organic forms.

TO TAKE AWAY

It is important to think about how mark making by human agency can hint at the perfect beauty and randomness found in nature. Take a moment to allow yourself to create relationships in your mind between the imagery of the art and things you instinctively feel or know. Ellenbogen says “I’d like viewers to feel and consider some other perception of the world and their relationship to it that suggests vulnerability, beauty and love.”

HOW COULD THIS RELATE?

POETRY

Ellenbogen’s work owes a great debt to poetry and Zen Buddhism. It is interesting to note how the poetics of language and the rigor of meditation and appreciation for the natural unfolding of life can be an inspiration for art making. Have you ever seen something in nature that inspired you to make a work of art?

SCIENCE

The artist also has a love of science and often uses a microscope to peer deep into the natural world as a catalyst for creative inspiration. Can you see aspects of this work that relate to the microscopic world?

LANGUAGE

Sometimes we are limited by language to describe a work of art. Ellenbogen has a favorite German word that inspires her work, *ehrhhebung* meaning “to rise without being lifted.” Can you see how that word may relate to the process, technique and labor of metalpoint?



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