

Michal Lile

Artist Statement

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There resides in everything I do a great love of paradox.

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While I tend to be highly geared toward concept, I have an equal tendency to work intuitively: I often do not have expectations at the onset of a particular piece as to where it will lead. I see my role more as following the piece from birth to fruition. Sometimes that means taking a piece to nearly complete only to deconstruct the work in an effort to finish it. Oddly enough, this process has a tendency to produce my best works.

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The ideas that do float through the works range from the personal to the political and from the scientific to the spiritual: I enjoy exploring my own experiences within the greater context of American cultural and political shifts, often within the same piece.

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Artmaking for me has always been about idea. Technique and the skill to create illusion are important tools that no artist should overlook; but these tools must serve an important or interesting concept.

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I attempt to juxtapose concepts in such a way as to create new ideas.

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Our ability to form new ideas, to save them in an abstract form (often language), and communicate them later is the dominant factor in our ability to create the amazing lives that humans are now able to live. There is no good reason that the word love must represent the concept of love. For the same reason, I see no reason why a painting about nuclear war would need to include something that looks like a mushroom cloud, or even destruction for that matter.

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Ideas are sometimes illusive ghosts we seem unable to hold for long. I wish to make ideas tangible; to honor painting as a discipline of creating the tangible.

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I am a pourer, a scratcher, a marker, a gouger, a sander of paint. I don't paint: I form concepts in paint. Once my ideas are made tangible, a dialogue can begin about them--a dialogue intended to make our lives better.

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I do these things in honor of life and love.

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