

Alexis St. John: Artist Statement

I create worlds. The locations are unconventional, playful, and slow of pace. They offer viewers an escape from the mundane. Recurring themes include the ocean, alchemy, fluidity, transition, interconnectedness, and freedom.

People, animals, plants, letters, and symbols morph into and out of one another. This place of not knowing drops me into the non-conceptual, where clear boundaries and binaries cease.

Complex colors challenge me to greater subtlety of understanding. They form intricate relationships to their neighbors. I find this deeply engaging.

Texture adds another dimension to the work. My latest series uses sand as a ground. Thinned paint sinks down into the crevices. Thicker paint glides along the surface, giving the paintings a richness of color and depth.

To free myself from the unconscious beliefs and concepts built into my native language, I constructed my own. My language helps me describe the feelings and states that shape the way I paint. I often incorporate the symbols and letters into my work.

I make my own art supplies: paper, gouache, and oil paint. It gives me more control over my materials. It brings consciousness and intention to my process. The materials I make are environmentally responsible, archival, and non-toxic.

My work is a manifestation of the qualities, values, and priorities I wish to see in the world. We become what we put our attention on. The paintings are a gentle reminder for us to keep growing.