

Biography

My path as an artist has not followed a traditional route. The components of my life are not always clearly visible in my work or on my resume. A constant thread running through my work in various fields related to art and the mind is the basic idea that art is a human function.

My work as a clinical psychologist and my background as an artist inspired me to explore in more depth those areas where art and academia, theory and practice converge. For me that meant further study, leading to additional graduate degrees and, most recently (2006), a master's in visual arts theory and criticism.

I come from a family in which psychology and art are blended. We have influenced one another continuously through the years. Both my sisters in Brazil work in film, one is a director and the other film editor. One of them is also a practicing psychologist, as well as my brother.

I've explored a variety of art forms during my life. For example, I worked as a production designer in film and later explored video art. This led to my being offered a fellowship to study art and design at New York University (which I declined). My favorite art form, though, has always been painting. When I was five years-old my parents gave me my first set of watercolors and an easel. Little did they realize the career they had set in motion, for with that easel I officially began my life as an artist. From a young age, I went to museums and galleries with my family. When I was eight I took my first art class – a seminal experience that undoubtedly laid the groundwork for my future artistic endeavors. I continued with art workshops and courses throughout my youth.

With art already such a big part of my life, by the time I was ready for college I did not feel a need to study art formally. Instead, I pursued a degree in psychology. This choice grew out of my interest in the connections between fine art and behavior, especially the psychological dynamics behind memory and self-expression. I believed that scholarly pursuit of these ideas would lead to my understanding art in an original way. After earning my degree in psychology I worked in a clinical setting for many years while pursuing degrees in art therapy and art history. At the time, in addition to showing my art works in galleries and art centers, I also taught art and art history.

Since moving to the USA I have established my studio in Minnesota and focused all my energy on painting. I have exhibited my work regularly in various galleries throughout the country, and my pieces are owned by corporate and private collectors in both the US and Brazil.

From my first watercolor at age five to the thesis I wrote for my last degree, my education, my life experiences and my professional endeavors have been synthesized with my art practice, serving as its natural background.

