

**Cheselyn Amato – Artist’s Statement**  
**January 26, 2001**

Big questions and every tiny sensation are of equal interest to me. I love pondering on what we, human beings, are, and I love experiencing infinitesimally subtle shifts in thought, feeling, perception, and action, and in color, pattern, arrangement, possibility, and significance. I am committed to beauty that is revealing, that both transports and grounds at the same time.

I am interested in the exacerbation of the sense of living forces. Having an interdisciplinary sensibility, I use materials, methods and form - currently installation, collage and montage - as tools to explore and amplify the qualities of immediacy and authenticity. Through dynamics between aesthetic sensations that are primary, direct, imitative, simulative or simulated, acknowledgement is encouraged that we can never make a final, factual, physical statement about presence. There is a leap of faith that we take at a certain point.

In *The Tree of Life Chronicles*, wallpaper, photocopied images, computer-generated prints, and a variety of found and appropriated materials are assembled through collage and montage as evocations of the Jewish mystical Tree of Life. These collages are organized through an improvisational mode with allegiance to The Tree of Life of Kabbalah, Jewish mysticism, which is described in a particular diagrammatic format. With this schema as an anchor, certain other elements occur as a matter of incident. Any material, gesture, action or appearance can become imbued with significance depending on intention. Almost any gesture, material, incident, or accident can become beautiful. Beauty is a sign through sensation and cognition of presence and significance. Beauty is a certain kind of calling to attention, an invitation to meet sublimity face to face. The kind of beauty that interests me is that which honors experience itself with emphasis on sensation, vitality, invention, re-invention and awe. Beauty is also embodied through the exercise of design. Design, the organization of visual elements into a singular experience, is a magnificent tool for the soul through the eye to effect pleasure to the body, understanding to the mind, and edification to the spirit.

