

## Cheselyn Amato - Artist Statement

### Sacramento Open Studios 2015

I describe myself as an interdisciplinary visual artist, spoken text & sound performer, and space/place designer working across 2D, 3D and 4D with an emphasis on enacting circumstances for the experience of sublimity, awe and delight via the orchestration of visual props and cues as well as sound and colored light phenomena.

I make paintings and drawings, collage, 3D assemblage, interdisciplinary installation, and visual contexts for primary experience. I am equally interested in the re-presentation of much of my work in the form of digital prints on canvas and paper in a wide range of sizes including mural-scale. I am interested in primary, original embodiment AND in re-presentations of it. I love what happens in the translation.

I am currently working with these themes: Color Cornucopia: Oh How Gorgeous, How Satiating: As Full and Whole As Possible. I just want to make the most beautiful things as an affirmation and confirmation of life. I also embody darkness and the dark-side and use the work process to find a way to get light and redemption to weigh heavier and to triumph. I am working on three projects within that general theme.

I am passionate about the experiences of awe, sublimity and delight, and of the moments when the awareness of the great and wild mystery sweeps us up. I am equally passionate about creating visual circumstances that can trigger such experiences and awareness in the viewer. The following two projects are underway:

***Uncontrollable Beauty, Oh So Gorgeous: 231 Jewels*** is an orchestration of oval, circular and square canvases and panels stretched or covered with printed fabrics and embellished with embroidered images and words as well as other props and cues on the walls, floor and ceiling to create a dazzling glittering color luscious place/space/environment/landscape. The number 231 is a mystical number and also relates to the mathematical Fibonacci Sequence, Golden Mean and fractal formations. I have an extremely extensive inventory of fabrics and collage materials that I use to tell stories about the human experience. I also anticipate sculptural elements emerging as well as a performance involving sound and text to be executed within the visual context.

I am working on another project with the working title, ***The Odyssey/Mount Sinai***, as a kind of homage both to Homer's *Odyssey* and to the theme of the traveling to the Promised Land in the Torah, with the central theme being about the process by which we become ourselves. I think that we are always being and becoming at the same time, we are complete and incomplete at the same time. Odysseus leaves home and has many adventures that bring him back home, and Penelope his wife is at home knitting and unraveling her work waiting for Odysseus to return. Really Odysseus and Penelope are aspects of the same soul – they are both leaving and returning, but in different ways. Moses is leading the people out of exile and trying to guide them through the exodus to arrive at the homeland, the Promised Land that has been bestowed upon them. We travel/change/evolve and at the same time something does remain constant – there are essential qualities that persist while we sometimes stretch out or retract, or are pulled and pushed, sometimes by choice or beyond our control. I think that each of us can and does journey toward ourselves which we can also call home which we can say is our place of greatest, truest belonging. We each construct, re-construct, de-construct, and construct anew ourselves according to our unique singular blueprints so to speak. I am including what are my first explorations in model form of ***The Odyssey***. As you can see there is plenty of treasure – jewels and all that glitters – in this work too.

***Home: Exile, Exodus and Return*** is an ever-growing body of digitally-printed collages and assemblages on paper and canvas that speaks to evolving soul – to the dynamics between the ordinary and extraordinary, being and becoming, sobriety and exuberance, mystery and courage...among many other dances between qualities of mind, heart and body that define and describe our human experience and our desire for balance.