

Artist Statement - Stephanie Ionita

To create a body of work which speaks to gesture, mark making and gestural abstraction, I reference natural and organic forms within nature and the natural world. By responding to these forms through the act of looking, my responsiveness to the composition and the previous mark support each new gesture. The majority of the colour palette is derived from natural forms and structures that can be found in nature, as well as my own interpretation of the colours and shapes. These “natural forms” range from real organic objects such as plants, to zoomed in images of natural plant like landscapes. Such as those of artists Joan Mitchell, Cy Twombly, and Melanie Authier, whose work is directed to gesture and composition through organic marks, shapes and colours.

In the end, each piece in this body of work becomes their own compositional puzzle, allowing myself to solve and find each painting. My work as gestural abstractions become chaotic, busy and anxious. Creating a chaotic organic yet intriguing space, inviting the viewer to further discover and investigate the paintings through the layers of colour and various gestures. The content of the works as being abstracted depictions of various plants and natural objects is not necessarily what is most important in this body of work. Rather what I am focusing on is gesture and the mark making which is associated with such content is what is highlighted. In other words, I am implying the context of real organic shapes as something to respond to through the act of painting in order to create a language of gestural abstraction.