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## **Artist Statement**

Traditional architectural forms from the Southwest are the source of inspiration for my current series of works. As an artist, I find certain shapes in architecture intriguing because they imply the human form, the human presence without expressly describing it. So while my work is essentially about the human environment, there is a visual tension in my compositions that pulls between the optimism of the human presence and a sense of loneliness that attends a pictorial environment that omits the human form.

I begin my paintings by visualizing a specific compositional idea in a series of pastel or colored pencil sketches. I typically never achieve a design that represents the finished painting, but the sketching does provide enough preliminary design to begin a canvas or sculptural framework. Next, I lay out my central composition in conté or oil pastel, and begin filling in areas of shape and color. Because the nuance of the color themes in each painting change frequently as I work, I have come to rely on acrylic paint as my primary medium, as it holds its color well and is fast-drying, allowing large sections of the canvas to be annealed and changed in a short period of time.

Making art is a sublime and complex interaction of thoughts and material expression that is indelibly connected to my own view of the world. I believe that the individual still has consequence in the world, that communicating a sense of awe and wonder at being alive makes the human community a better place, that creating is always a better option than destruction, and that sharing our individual impressions improves our collective sense of empathy and understanding.