

Deborah Hadl Artist Statement

I was born in Lowell, Massachusetts and educated in New York City, and have been a resident of Los Angeles since 1972. While raising three sons, Judah, Noah and Aaron, I started an art consulting business. In 1988, with the encouragement of my husband Robert Hadl, I opened a gallery to showcase works by local artists. During this period, my professional life was dedicated to viewing and selling art. I helped artists market their paintings and I worked with corporations to build their collections. It was only when I began working with the San Francisco based workshop called "The Painting Experience," that I was able to appreciate my painting as a means of spontaneous expression and to use the creative process as an important tool for my own self discovery and inner exploration.

For me the important aspect of the painting is my journey. Painting allows me the time and space to visit my soul and experience different parts of my personality. I am inspired by color and its relationship to the canvas. What happens when I juxtapose one color against another? What happens when I paint color on top of color or on top of black? What happens when a large space of canvas is filled with whites? What tensions does it create? What happens when I introduce a wandering line? The line creates a whole new path to explore.

The work of the last six years are for me, a radical departure from the work I had done over the previous 20. The larger format, new paint medium and fresh subject matter were all very new to me. I feel that this work has allowed me to express a very different aspect of my personality. For this I am truly grateful to my teacher and mentor Tom Wudl for guiding me through this often challenging but exciting process.

I feel alive as I mix the color and apply the paint to the canvas. It is the journey through the process of painting that has come to mean the most to me. I am continually surprised and delighted at what I have created. When I paint, I am happy.

Martha Graham said: "There is a vitality, a life force, a quickening that is translated through you into action... It is not your business to determine how good it is, not how it compares with other expression. It is your business to keep it yours clearly and directly, to keep the channel open..."