

Artist Statement

My daily walks have become integral to my life. These walks take me through the Rockville hills and forests that are densely covered with coastal oak trees. Gazing into immense vistas of time and space, I am filled with a sense of awe, timelessness, stillness, and mystery, that seem to go beyond the aesthetics of a landscape. The light patterns and textures of the landscape, most specially the trees, preoccupy me with their tendency for abstract designs and fractal repetitions. These elements are often explored in my work but balanced with a sense of the organic. I tread between pure abstraction and realism, revealing the perpetual balancing act inside; at one end my desire to express personal imagination and emotion, and on the other end, the desire to venerate and celebrate the purely aesthetic beauty of nature as we see it.

I hope to arrive at an artwork that would be the sum of simple observation and personal insight. Through painting, I re-contextualize and re-define my experience with nature. In the process, I generate marks that may perhaps become threads connecting my work over time.

Janine Barrera Castillo