

## General Artist Statement

By Sue Clancy

I've been thinking about the interconnectedness of everything in life. Stories are the way humans comprehend the sensual world. These two thoughts led me to the concept of nested ideas; how one experience leads to another, one food or drink pleasure can lead to another new pleasure in a similar way that one enjoyed book can lead to another new book. Being mindful of present physical experiences and our subsequent thoughts can be helpful to human happiness and good mental health.

I've also thought of how much the written word in general can enhance our pleasure in and understanding of the sensual world by enabling connections to be made between elements and people across time and space.

My general working method is to merge writer/word techniques (verbal or poetic descriptions) with multiple visual art techniques (including sketchbook keeping) – purposefully playing with how to tell stories visually using a variety of media; handmade paper, ink, acrylic, gouache or one-of-a-kind handbound books.

Often, I use the printed-and-bound book itself as a symbol within my visual artwork for “the written word” in its myriad of formats. And I've deliberately, whimsically, played with the one-thing-leads-to-another-everything's-connected concept by including spoofs of my own artwork, my still life paintings, within my other paintings, or my own books within my other books or artwork.

As an author/artist I sometimes combine my creative words with my artwork and call them “illustrated shorts”. My word and art combos are published individually as books, essays, recipes, poems or flash fiction. I approach my fine art exhibits as if they were a story book you can walk around in. In general I'm exploring ways to construct visually/experientially the many helpful, kind, whimsical, ways a human brain can process the sensual world.

And yes, you can read much of my artwork like you would a mostly wordless comic.