

# joynal abedin uzzal

## Artist Statement

I used to draw from my childhood. In front of my house was a forest surrounded by green hills. I believe nature is my real teacher. Nature and my childhood have inspired my life to paint. Whenever I go out in the fields, in the forest, on the mountains, or along running streams, I feel enchanted as I am surrounded by nature and its beauty. When observing the combination of trees, mountains and water, I am inspired from my soul, from the idea or feeling with which I associate during my observation of nature.

Forms of nature speak to me in terms of human emotions. Nature pleases me and touches me, evoking enthusiasm for solitude—a quasi-religious experience with God and the universe. Nature frees me from all onuses of life, and when looking at landscapes, I find myself concentrating on the “self”—that which is to me the spirit, the soul of being. Through investigating nature, I am compelled to understand myself and reflect on my role and purpose of being. Art and philosophy are one during this engaging time of observing nature and creating a landscape while painting. During this creative process I am in constant touch with my inner feelings. The woods, the hills, the cliffs, the water—these are all motifs for inspiration and reflection of a particular experience.

I am more comfortable painting with oil colors and acrylic colors. Using acrylic paint, I attribute the evolution of my style to this medium. The essential quality of this paint, the fact that it dries so fast, opens the artist to other means of expression apart from realism. I am strongly influenced by artists who blend their artistic world with their spiritual world although I cannot see a separation between the two. I create my landscape work as I understand it intellectually and my art is an expression of my concept of nature. When I choose my composition I sacrifice detail in order to improve the overall effect of the composition. It is the effect of nature that is important and not the descriptive detail of the landscape. I concentrate on the emotional expression or the aesthetic ideas that forms in nature may suggest. I do not feel obliged to represent nature realistically; this gives me the freedom to experiment with form, design and color.

Art is not only about beauty. Art should make people think. It is about communicating to an audience. I can't change the world, but maybe I can change one person at a time with my paintings. I draw from both my current Western cultural environment and my South Asian culture of origin. I believe my paintings, which combine elements from both cultures, will promote bridges and connections between all people.