

## Sue Rusk - Statement

My artwork reflects a search for balance between exterior and interior worlds. The images become visual metaphors for this quest.

In working with collage or found objects, I delve into my interior history by layering and tearing materials while combining gestural marks with alternately subtle or vibrant fields of colour. Often, hidden figures struggle to be seen beneath the layers.

In more recent work, drawing rather than painting is foregrounded in an effort to sustain an immediate felt experience and response to my subject. Images and shapes are discovered and developed as I feel my way across the surface of paper with repeated layers of gesture, marks and washes of ink, pastel, acrylic or watercolour.

My supports vary, from Mylar to canvas and various papers, including my own hand-made paper. Often these are used in combination as the unique quality of each surface or material contributes towards the work's meaning.

In the process of artmaking I am reminded of the ephemerality and vulnerability of life but, no less, its rootedness, cyclical nature and beauty. I hope to have caught some of the layeredness of these perceptions in the work itself.