


SEXTANT

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I M A G E S

Nature's Palette

Meg Black



40" x 40" x 4", handmade paper painting, 2017

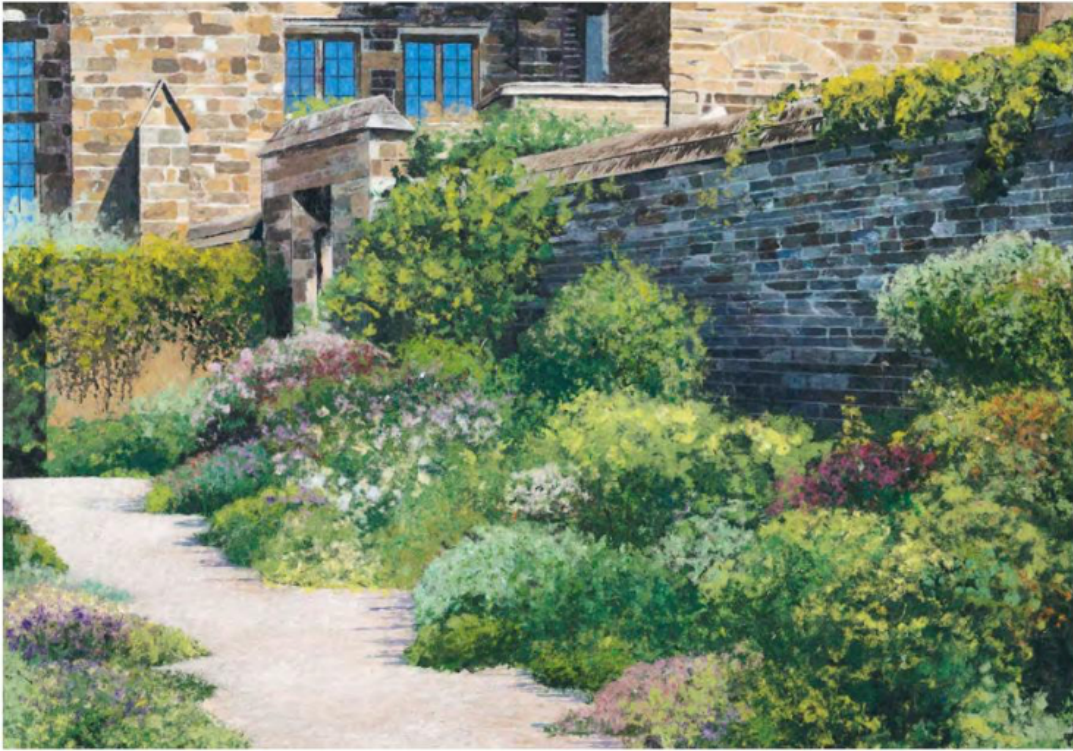
Rocks and Water as Portrait of Life's Journey



36" x 34" x 1", handmade paper painting, 2005

Boston Public Garden
Growing up in Syracuse, New York, we didn't have a public garden in the center of our city. As a result, I fell in love with the Boston Public Garden as soon as I moved to Boston in 1986. At the time, I lived close to the Garden and could ride my bike through its meandering paths as often as I liked.

Riding one's bike to the Boston Public Garden is an act of freedom I have never taken lightly. I like to take photographs under the many trees in the Garden as the light filters so nicely, especially under the willow trees. This makes for a romantic light in the final painting. Other artists who have painted the Garden are Childe Hassam and John Singer Sargent.



36" x 24", handmade paper painting, 2007

Courtyard Garden

This painting is inspired by the gardens at Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire, England. I was on an English garden tour with my mother in 1998 just as the film crew was wrapping up filming the movie Shakespeare in Love. I used pearlescent pigment in the windows to create a reflective appearance—as if the light is reflecting off the glass.

I am an artist and student of art history. I find inspiration in historical works of art and use that inspiration to inform my own efforts. In this way, I connect my ideas to the great artists whose ideas have come down to us through the ages. The subject of my work is most often natural environments. I study how artists have recorded nature throughout the history of art, and I consider these approaches in my own designs. When considering nature, I do not try to copy the natural world as I see it, but rather as I *feel* it. Moved by the natural light and organic shapes I observe in the places I visit seeking inspiration, I try to capture in my work the essence and mood of the place as well as to formulate a graphic interpretation of what I see.

I create my work with beaten abaca—a fiber from the inner bark of the banana tree that is typically used to make tea bags and sails for sailboats—for two reasons. One is that this material has not been widely used as an artistic medium; thus, I am constantly discovering its potential and am challenged by its capacities, which allows me to be a pioneer in this process. The second

is that the texture of this medium provides an almost three-dimensional quality to the finished surface, thus mimicking nature in all its splendor.

My paintings and wall reliefs are created exclusively from natural materials. Each work is pigmented with 100 percent pure, non-fading, acid-free pigments and is carefully treated so that it can be exhibited without glass. My unique process and careful attention to craftsmanship provides a seductive, textured surface that lends itself to the natural subject matter of my work. 🌀



Courtesy of Meg Black

Meg Black, PhD, is coordinator of 4+1 and MAT in Art Education at Salem State University. An artist who has worked with natural fibers for more than thirty years, she is a pioneer in this exploratory medium. Her paintings are internationally recognized for their textured surfaces and colorful luminosity. Her focus on nature's palette, compositions, and energy yields stunning landscapes, seascapes, and garden views.