

Signe Stuart

Santa Fe artist Signe Stuart creates scrolls that range in size from 30' to 60' wide and 11" to 27" high. They can be viewed in their entirety on walls, where all image sequences can be seen simultaneously. They can be rolled out a few feet at a time and experienced much like a book, or viewed from above, rolled out on platforms. She says, "Many scrolls are compositional loops without beginnings or endings...time and events are fluid... In the end, the scrolls are stream of consciousness narratives, telling stories about nature and the nature of thought."

Stuart explains, "I have long been interested in traditional Japanese art forms...the emakimono, kakemono, folding screens and sliding wall screens. I am drawn to these forms because they involve the concept of time and because very large works can be easily transported and stored by rolling, folding or piling up. Japanese aesthetics concerning beauty, simplicity and imperfection are also integrated into my thinking."

Beginning a body of scroll works in 1999, Stuart started with sumi ink on a roll of unryu paper, and she describes it as "a *journal* of improvisational marks and patterns similar in appearance to some contemporary music notation. The scrolls are abstract expressionist while my other works are minimalist. The process of painting the scrolls is intuitive. Tools and marks made by them are the genesis of the shape and content of a scroll's image sequences. They have a cinematic quality analogous to silent film and a rhythmic quality analogous to music."

Stuart earned an MA from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Her work has been exhibited across the country. She is the winner of the 2011 juror's award, Washington Pavilion for the Arts, Sioux Falls, SD. A collaborative work, *Onomatopoeia*, contemporary music by composer Jonathan Chenette based on a Stuart scroll painting, was created in 2010. Stuart's work can be found in numerous public collections, including the University of New Mexico Art Museum, Albuquerque, NM; Utah Museum of Fine Arts, Salt Lake City, UT; American Swedish Institute; Miami Airport, Miami, FL; New Mexico Museum of Arts and the New Mexico State Capitol Art Foundation Santa Fe.

Statement:

"When people look at my abstract artworks, I want them to experience resonance with Nature...its realities and mysteries. In my work I explore sequence, structure and spin, metaphors for Nature's patterns and processes of creation and destruction. All works are permutations of these ideas, varying in media and scale from hand held to room size."