

Leslie Vansen

Artist Statement

The images in my paintings are literally, concretely "constructed" from obvious "abstract" components of visual forms - surface, lines, color, space. These embody a repetitive continuum of memory and association with nature and architecture as experienced daily in an urban context. No reference to one place or moment is intended; cumulative sensations of existence become visual force fields and remembered repetitive interactions. Cyclical events which shape space, control form and encourage or inhibit change are evoked metaphorically through methodical applications of paint which conceal and reveal their layered identities. The paintings' scale corresponds to my own physical presence in space; their surfaces report the actions of my body. The paintings are chaotic meanderings intersected by imposed structural grids. The juxtaposition of meander and structure generates "time," postpones solution and avoids hierarchy. The dynamic limbo and inherent contradictions within order, chaos and inexorable outcome give the work its associations with nature and the familiarity of social interactions. Where expression is possible here, it is accessible via analogy, metaphor, tactile presence, and viewer confrontation.

Every procedural tactile step taken in the construction of the paintings is made insistently visible, recording the "work" that has made the existence of the finished painting possible. At the same time, the logic of that visible process is "hidden in plain sight" in the final image. Duration and methodology consume themselves to disappear into the history of their own making and become something else, obvious, unavoidable and quite different from the original intentions.