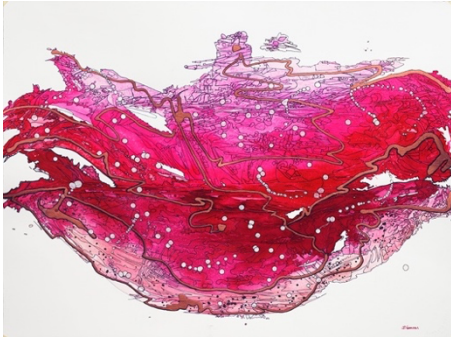


JAMES C VARNUM

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I call myself an experimental aqua-media painter. I do so because my approach to the medium is anything but traditional.

My paintings are combinations of layered colors, movements and various textures on traditional watercolor papers and substrates such as Yupo and Terra-Skin. I use a variety of materials to create texture – plastic wrap, waxed paper, masking fluid, salt, and spray bottles with water or alcohol. Next, I move the pigment with various tools including brushes, combs, squeegees, and palette knives. Finally, I add lines and marks with ink or graphite.

When I create lines on my work, I engage in a deliberate process of emphasizing the topography of the painting while using inks or graphite. In my work I have always been conscious of creating a dichotomy – soft edge/hard edge; straight mark/curved mark; warm tones/cool tones while using color and line.

The paintings are a culmination of my experimentation and exploration of pigment, texture and lines.

I studied art in Boston and San Francisco, where I earned a B.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute. My career was in education and communication disorders before my retirement in 2011. At that time, I returned to my first love – painting and drawing.

I am on the boards of the Newton Art Association, and Galatea Fine Art in Boston. I belong to multiple art associations and actively exhibit my paintings throughout New England.

