

Linda A. Heim Artist Statement

My area of focus in art is Symbols of Modern Culture. During meditation and dreams, images appear on my mental screen. These closed-eye visualizations are both personal and universal. I use the symbols in my artwork. Over years, this process has become the *Myth of Modern Man*, a Symbolist art that documents the current state of 21st Century Culture. It uses visual storytelling with universal appeal to define the state of the global human race, at this point in history. The subject matter in all the works are symbols, whether abstract or more traditional in style. They are intended as visual points of reference that prompt the viewer to experience an emotion in a moment in time. They are highly personal without written words, codes or dialects. They are universal, in this sense, and work without language.

Some symbol paintings resemble dream imagery. Other paintings mark historic events. And still other works document modern culture in generic form, such as *Hop on the Freeway* and *Cityscape*. I paint in acrylics and watercolors. I use panorama, circle and square paper and canvases of all sizes especially 12" x 36", 20" x 20" and 36" x 36". I also work in wood, tile, clay, metal and print.

Because the works are tribal in nature, my color palette is warm with dark red, yellow ochre, hunter green, dusty blue, and warm grey, as well as other colors with an intensity and value range of 7, on the color scale. I am very specific about mixing color and I am interested in how colors work together in a symbolic way. I use this color palette because this current age in history is referenced; from a metaphysical point-of-view, as a Bronze Age. People are hard and tough. Competition and war for resources dominates people's behavior. From a symbolic perspective, my artwork represents current truth, no matter how harsh.

My purposeful goal in the artwork is the exchange between the viewer and the art. When viewing the work, the viewer's personal story is remembered in the context of the mythic symbols. This resonates with the realization that each person more than an individual alone in the world. Their actions have an effect on everyone. We are one race of human beings. In my artwork that looks like petroglyphs and graffiti, the symbols say, "This is our world and we are here now."

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