

Lynn Benson / statement

In our natural world, breath-taking complexities and forces balance and entangle with another until we find that we humans, we who thought we might control nature, are caught in a dangerous web of our own making, only now rising to an understanding of the reality of nature's true dominion and fragility.

Ten years ago my artist statement said... " I want to be a part of the conversation in our new century as we face enormous change and challenges on a global scale related to our waters."

For these last ten years my work has been focused on our world waters. My personal history has led me to this point...Vast waters, our sacred source, healing, playful, frightening and magical life support, circle the earth through subterranean, surface and atmospheric rivers, feeding into and rising from our oceans. In 2010 news reports of ocean acidification caught my attention and informed my solo exhibition, "Acid Wash: Playing with Consequences." Subsequently, I turned attention to the meandering lines where water meets land on the skin of our earth as seen from satellite view...our new version of landscape. Unrelenting news stories of specific water places move me to respond. Where water mingles with land I select a section of a mapped place and push toward abstraction. Sometimes I play upon the botanical and anatomical similarities in fluid dynamics and patterns of growth. There's pleasure in the prospecting for these "waterplaces." I've employed fabric, oil on canvas, ink, pigment pencil on paper vellum, photography, printmaking, collage, dimensional paper effects, installation, writing, and new mixed media forms in response to my concern for these fragile places, my desire to play and my wish that the work remain accessible.

Ultimately I find myself tugged in opposing directions simultaneously. On the one hand there is the Poetry, the beauty, force and delicacy at once of water and land. On the other, the Politics, the continual feed of distressing news recording the human-made unhealth of our waters, and by implication, our planet and ourselves. *The balancing of Poetry and Politics feeds and challenges me and my work.*