

# Stillness is the First Song: A Visual Language for an Interconnected Future

Lisa Hoag - Artist's Statement, December 12, 2022

*“Words do not label things already there. Words are like the knife of a carver. They free the idea, the thing, from the general formlessness of the outside. As a man speaks, not only his language is in a state of birth, but also the very thing about which he is talking.” ~Edmund Snow Carpenter*

## **Interdisciplinary Art:**

I've always loved working in multiple mediums and disciplines in a transdisciplinary way. I've worked with wood, stone, wrought iron, sculptural glass, ceramics, lithography, wood block printing, copper engraving, painting, sculpture, architecture, film and digital photography, and digital graphic design. When I am fully engaging with my heart-mind, hands, soul, and body, my creation process leads me to the most profound discoveries. In my work as an artist, designer, and arts-innovator, I seek to find the point of connectedness / empowerment at the heart of each project, and create a new pathway for what wants to emerge.

## **Interconnection and Presence:**

In 2012 I began a series of large works about Presence. I'd been photographing landscapes, seeking to capture a feeling I had of no separation between myself and my environment. Photography felt too fleeting. To “mean it” I needed to invest more life-force. I began to draw. Embedding the work with many layers of marks became a meditative practice. As the work accumulated time, gravity, weight, magnetic pull, insights unfolded:

The pace of life has become over-accelerated. We are being constantly disrupted, not able to finish one thing before we must begin the next. We are losing the time we need for intimacy; the time to connect with ourselves, with each other, with nature, with our planet, with stillness, with gratitude, with the profound act of simply being.

My commitment to slow down, draw, and listen, allowed my subject to tell me its story, grounded me, and reunited me with my root. The accumulation of the tiny marks each of us makes – the quality of our marks—is what the world becomes. We are each the creative source of the causes we are living in together.

## **Influences: Intersections of Indigenous Worldviews, Interconnectedness, & the Zero Point Field:**

I am interested in the intersection of Indigenous world views of interconnectedness as the foundation of Life, and new understandings in quantum physics. The Quantum Zero Point Field is a field of waves of potential, where, when waves intersect, each wave receives all the information of the other, creating a non-local, infinite field of information/experience, an instantaneously accessible holographic imprint of all experienced events. This echoes the concept of the Akashic record (Akasha is a Sanskrit word meaning “sky”, “space” or “aether”), a non-physical plane of existence, where all phenomenal experience is encoded therein. I am interested in the idea of mark-making as an Akashic record of a journey, which creates a resonant object. This journey can help retune ourselves, our environment, our culture.

## **Collaborative Learning:**

I am interested in how these frameworks might inform collaborative learning, and assist people to work innovatively across disciplinary silos. I believe collaborative learning is essential. I believe dialogue-based communication is mission-critical to collaboration.

## **For the Future:**

As an artist/designer/educator, I hope my work may inspire people to reconnect with themselves, with each other, and with the interconnected web of life we are part of, upon which our survival and wellbeing depend. I seek to integrate the extraordinary cultural and scientific paradigm shifts of this time. I believe we are each the growing tips—the dawn workers of our next future. I believe the mission of our time is transformation, informed by love. Art—the language of spirit beyond words—can light magnificent pathways there.

~Lisa Hoag