

FELICE KOENIG

Artist Statement

My work is a meditation on obsessive gesture. Each piece is made from more than a hundred layers of paint, producing seductive, tactile surfaces that despite their artificial nature achieve a sense of organic growth. My painting practice is inherently peaceful and invites the viewer to see a record of a person working in quiet, sitting with their mind, exploring possibility. The energy put into something as non-utilitarian as a painting is a most human endeavor, and the record of my humanity and my sense of isolation are inherent in the work.

The acrylic medium and its relatively quick drying time allows me to build rich surfaces that offer immediate gratification, and a record of choices that undo other choices. This is like contemporary life, which can be rich beyond dreams and offer much instant gratification, but is difficult to find roots in because decisions can so easily be made that undo other decisions. I find painting is a place where this contemporary overload can be reckoned with.

My artwork does not directly tell the viewer new things or bring together information in an enlightening new format, but instead processes the overwhelming known. A field of undulating, highly detailed color records the noise that surrounds us, but between the layers there is whispering. Maybe in the end it is whispering about nothing so specific but a quiet “what if, how, maybe, this could be possible”.