

## **Artist Statement**

There is nothing in my personal history that denotes a quality formal education. I attribute my skill and knowledge to what Martin Heidegger would refer to as a “Learning Journey”.

Education is a personal responsibility that is guided and dictated by the learning needs of an individual. What is needed to learn is intellectual curiosity and the awareness of one’s own ignorance. The second component of an individual’s education is John Dewey’s assertion that learning is a product of experience. An individual’s interpretation of experience is the only means in which learning can occur. The ever changing plasticity associated with learning stems from our constant re-evaluations and re-interpretations of our experiences. If one accepts learning as experiential interpretations then learning becomes the responsibility of the individual and not a consignment to the collective society’s learning institutions.

The only voice that matters is that of the artwork itself. The artist is merely the vehicle for which the artwork came into being. This type of creative process was espoused by Bach and Newton who humbly claimed they only discovered what God had created or Mozart’s confession of only composing what he had heard in his head. Whatever means or method art comes into being its interpretation is dependent upon the viewer’s own learning experiences. The only voice acquirable by artist or artwork comes solely through the experience of the viewer’s interactions with a work of art. It is the responsibility of the artist to frame the viewer’s learning experience and interaction with an artwork or body of work. If a dialog between the artwork and viewer cannot be established then neither the art nor artist exist.

My learning journey of self education stems from reading neuro and cognitive science, philosophy, literature, art theory, art history, art techniques, music and the direct observations of great works of art in art museums. Most notable in my museum studies is the Metropolitan Museum of Art where I was a contractual studio art instructor for thirteen years. I attribute my work to the experiential interpretations that life and learning have offered. When composing artwork I rely upon the vision of the mind’s eye. It is through the translation of these in sighted ideas that visual images are created. I take it upon myself to express the idea of the work of art in both image and word to better inform and engage the viewer in dialog. The goal of any artist is to exist. Existence is the manifestation of the art they create.

**-Gary Horn**