

JANNA WATSON STATEMENT

Poems Without Words

Part of the exhilaration I acquire from painting is being able to see shifts within myself manifested into a physical reality. The most truthful form of expression I have found in my life thus far has been the abstract language of painting. Self-discovery is fluid, and when I am painting, I can see worlds within myself taking shape across their varied surfaces. The paintings speak on their own emotional terms, evading logic and inviting limitless interpretations.

Raised in the '80s in a rural area without internet or TV, I had little exposure to foreign languages. My father was a Pentecostal pastor, and my earliest memory of a "foreign" language was the speaking of tongues. I was taught that praying in tongues was a way to bypass the mind and communicate a divinely inspired language through an utterance of the spirit. This early understanding of using language to bypass words has been deeply imprinted on me, and it has since manifested itself in new ways, influencing my abstract expression.