

## ***California Horizons***

### **Artist Statement 2002**

In a world society dominated by science and technology, it is vital for humanity's balance and health to recollect and record our enduring relationship to nature. In my most recent portfolio *California Horizons*. I work to help the viewer "recollect" a relationship with and inspiration from experiences in the natural setting. These paintings are my personal way of bringing a weighted balance to what is quickly becoming a barren, technological landscape.

The *California Horizons* (2001-2002) seeks to integrate my understanding and experience of nature, and recollection and healing through nature. *California Horizons* depicts celestial figures floating in nature. Often, in sharing these paintings with others, I am told deeply personal stories of catharsis and healing. One of my goals as a painter has been to touch the collective unconscious and I believe that *California Horizons* has been successful in reaching a place deep within the viewer. To date, I have completed over thirty *California Horizons* paintings in oil on canvas and paper, and gouache on paper. Each painting contains hundreds of layers of paint, many taking over one year to complete.

I do not work from photographs, nor paint a specific sky from memory, but rather work to recollect the feeling of a skyscape, oceanscape, and landscape. I do not produce pre-drawings to indicate the final result of any painting. A surrealistic subconscious impulse directs the process of each painting, where colors and passages of paint are chosen in an automatic and involuntary fashion. Each layer of transparent paint is abstract with no definition or specific form. The final result is a painting which integrates my internal spiritual and emotional life with my experience and recollection of nature and natural being.

*California Horizons* oftentimes depict the human form superimposed on a brilliant sky or earth in order to discuss a metamorphic relationship with nature. These female forms depict woman as a symbol for the creative force in nature. Each figure is meticulously rendered and proportioned to reveal a balanced and harmonious countenance.