

Artist Statement

By David Dixon

Art is statement. It is protest; it is a proposal for seeing, thinking, being differently in the world. It speaks across time from the present to the present in dialogue with the past and future, to people not yet living and those already dead. Art carries information, but information expressed from a unique perspective of difference, its subject maintained in the space between the subjectivities of author and viewer. This space is empathetic and must be maintained, encouraged, and defended for it is a space of collective intimacy for imagining and evaluating. It is often a space of pitched battles, but bloodless, often heated and destructive, but inevitably, then, productive of fragments that are rearranged and reconstituted, yet again. Opportunities are often missed, but Art is a Pollyanna of belief in value. Art, if it is worthy of the name, is never cynical, somehow, miraculously, because people certainly are. Art, then, is the best of us, despite ourselves, our sensitive side, exposed and vulnerable, asking for trouble and if lucky finding it. Art is masochism and sacrifice and addiction, but only to be born, not again, but just to be born, finally, as a living thinking engaged subject alive in the world with others. In the not so great film, *Magnolias*, there is a great line delivered by William H. Macy: He, crying, says, "I have all this love and no place to put it." Being an artist is never having to feel this way.