

ERIN E. CASTELLAN

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am interested in the relationship between human beings and the universe. How do we make sense of the world around us? What is here? What isn't here? Why is there life rather than nothing? I am attracted to moments of beauty and awe, natural wonders, the unexplainable, unexpected, and enigmatic. I am curious about the things we will never see, hear, touch, taste, or smell - the very things life depends on. My artwork is an acknowledgment of the unknown. It is a search for the universal truth in what it means to be human, alive in our current world. Although my work is a direct reflection of me, my experience of the world, how it is filtered through me, remembered, and reflected back, it is also a reflection of a much larger human experience of the world's mysteries.

My art making is immediate, obsessive, intuitive, and meditative. It is a process-based love of discovery and invention. I begin with monoprints on paper, and then work, and rework the images with various mixed-media combinations of painting, drawing, and embroidery. Throughout the working process, the paper is often cut and pieced multiple times. I allow each image to grow, change, and slowly develop without any preconceived ideas. I find myself constantly inventing, defining, and editing my personal visual language in order to come closer to my desired expression.