

Liz Squillace  
Artist Statement  
2008  
current series

My current series presents imagery of birds with industrial or 'manmade' elements screenprinted onto fabric. It began with a photograph I took in St. Maarten of two birds sitting on a barbed-wire fence. The crispness, simplicity, and contrasting juxtaposition truly resonated with me. I start looking for, and finding, other representations of birds with electrical towers, planes, powerlines, etc. These I screenprint with black ink onto painted canvas and other fabrics. To further push the concept of contrast I begin to print on top of lovely fabrics like toile or softer flowered fabric or something from an earlier era. Therefore, not only does the imagery have an embedded contrast but the method of layered printing does as well. This layering of time periods and softness vs. harshness appeals to me. Aesthetics come into question here as to what is beautiful and what is ugly. Are electrical towers and powerlines ugly? Is flowered fabric ugly? To some they may be beautiful. I love the way the structure that supports the powerlines looks as much as, if not more so, than the birds in flight. The elements are both only there to illustrate the point. The point is that both exist. Simplicity and complexity, natural and manmade, geometry vs. organic, soft and hard, beautiful and ugly. Not only do they exist, but they co-exist, they are mutually dependent. Things that appear to be opposite may in fact be two sides of the same coin. And they are not always so easily defined as each person has their own perspective of which is which. For me, playing with and representing this mingling of contrasting elements provides a sort of balance, completeness or just a visual puzzle.

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