

Inspiration and Incubation

Without inspiration, the obvious tools of creative production are of little use. Sparks that ignite creativity are found everywhere, and can arise from unrelated sources in the most unlikely places. New information triggers a desire to explore, yet it will somehow link back to original ideas, resurfacing with a difference that takes it closer to a desired goal. The journey of discovery may be quite frustrating and there is little documented about negotiating the creative path, which can be quite erratic. Persistence, and a thirst for the knowledge, may help fill in the gaps and give direction.

Below Tabla Rasa 7 and 9 50 x 50 cm acrylic on canvas 2006 Private collections



In the process of searching, creative expression changes without mindful decision on the artist's part. Using intuition, rather than conscious knowledge may seem to reduce focus and cause the outcome to be diverse, however it will flow in such a way that the integrity of the work in progress cannot be questioned. It leads to somewhere not reached by rigidity. Research will open the mind to new ideas and help the journey to be understood.

Over periods of time, the 'real' art emerged at the point of greatest creative failures

and frustration. It was a huge relief to understand and accept that some of the difficulties experienced while painting were in fact indicative of change coming. I would unconsciously incubate ideas from research and at a crucial point in time all this 'forgotten' information would surface. Although recollection may appear hazy and inconsistent, brain research has shown that we record every detail of life in memory. Imagery actively sought out in the environment will stockpile to feed the mind and emerge at the appropriate moment.

