

## MICHELLE SALES

### BIOGRAPHY

Michelle Sales has been expressing herself forcefully with pigment and mixed media since childhood. Her early work was as a painter, but sculpture soon became her focus. Currently, Ms. Sales utilizes recycled synthetic materials such as shipping felts and protective work garments in conjunction with mixed media materials to create her work.

Ms. Sales began exhibiting her work in 1990 while also giving workshops and teaching at college level. In 1998, she received a Recognition Scholarship from The School of the Art Institute in Chicago, and in 2001 was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. This adult experience helped crystallize thinking about her life's work.

Michelle has traveled extensively through North, Central, and South America over the course of several years. During these trips she created a photo journal of natural and man made accumulations from the forests and cities she visited. Stratified memories, expressed through color and texture, are recurring themes in much of her recent work.

Michelle Sales' work has won awards and recognition in both national and international exhibitions. Her work is collected by museums and private collectors throughout the US and internationally.



### IMPRINT SERIES

My work is about the accumulation and preservation of memories. These memories, represented in constructed and found materials, are stitched together to create sculptural objects. Each piece is composed of hand-dyed and stitched spun bonded materials often used in construction and garment industries. Transferred text is sometimes applied and wire is sewn in for support. In addition small found objects, such as, stones, china, beads, or glass are often sewn in. Individual pieces are built up horizontally with various layers, denoting passage of time and erosion. My works are abstract journals in which my memories are retained, protected, and preserved. Through this process I document events, emotions and personal growth. In like fashion, my memories mimic ancient civilizations, one built on top of another, century after century, new upon old in an endless cycle.

### GRAVITY SERIES

Nature, time, and memory inform my work. During daily walks through wooded areas and bucolic suburban streets I take note of the many rocks and stones strewn across the landscape. They bring to mind discarded shoes; worn, heavy, and awkward. Most days walking seems smooth and effortless as I become attuned to my body's rhythm, absorbing sensory information as I move along. A recent surgery caused my walks to become heavy and ponderous, as though the soles of my shoes had transformed to rock. The insides of my rock shoes are sharp and uneven, making every step an effort. The soles glitter and glisten in the sunshine, disguising their cruel nature. My shoes are like anchors, they return me to the present when my thoughts seem to drift. I stop walking and become as the rocks, a silent witness to my surroundings.

