



Converging Boundaries: Mixed Media Works by Christine Guillot Ryan | Cultural Arts Center 2014

## Artist Statement *Mixed Media Works 2015*

*I create modular collage paintings to explore the subjective nature of perception and to express the tension between the material and the intangible.*

**Perception is reality**, and I am fascinated how people gather fragments of what they decide is true and important—memory, stories, cultural influences, experiences, ideas and beliefs— and shape them into personal world views.

Beyond conscious cognitive connections, **the intangibility of feelings re-colors my world view**, starting with a single moment, evolving over days and years. They take the shape of both the subtle and dramatic. I celebrate the acts of **choice and belief** that form our individual worlds.

My work begins with a concept or personal narrative, developing sketches and lists, then gathering objects, images, and text, as well as creating personal photomontages. Torn and cut from their original contexts, I juxtapose current and historical imagery (**experience**), found words/cultural artifacts (**ideas**) and color/texture (**sensation**) to capture and visualize the nature of dynamic cognitive perception. I use the power of color and freedom of painted gestures to express intangible spirit and emotion.

When creating modular works, I reconfigure the separate surfaces as the piece develops, visually “bridging” the boundaries between different canvases to create alternating options for connection. By creating a visual unity over a material separation, the reality of physical boundaries become both emphasized and diminished. Even in completion, modular collage works continue to offer choices, emphasizing that **we choose what truth we want to see.**