***Masks and Mirrors: Beautiful Reflections***

*In imperfection, lies reality, beauty, and character.*

*What distinguishes us, defines us.*

*What defines us, connects us.*

Focused on identity as impacted by transience and imperfection, some common themes that run through my work are telling the unknown or hidden stories. My work juxtaposes strength and inner beauty with vulnerability and external imperfections.

Art has always been my center and passion. I am referred to by some as an action painter, for I dance around my paintings in time to jazz, blues, or rock. I tend to work in series, with multiple works in various stages of completion in my studio at any given moment. \My welded metal assemblage series “Visual Acoustics” has music as its raison d’ être. My non-objective and graffiti paintings are intuitive and visceral responses to everything from music to joy to nature and to life itself. They capture in color and line myriad impressions too vivid to express figuratively.

People and relationships matter to me. No two identities or relationships are ever the same and I find that fascinating. I see beauty in humans as they are – each one a unique and multifaceted three-dimensional tableau. Their stories are an endless source of ideas and inspiration for me. I explore the mystery and beauty within and beneath the surface. My paintings are created to selectively reveal or conceal emotions and storylines, the implied content in a scenario communicated through form, gestural strokes, colors, and other design elements. Some of my characters are more defined, while others appear as silhouettes or after-thoughts. I leave each piece open to interpretation within a viewer’s personal history and frame of reference, vowing never to limit another’s imagination. Monuments to life, my works resurrect feelings of transcendence, mystery, and hope.

My creative process involves analyzing and then building a character in layers, mimicking the way in which identities are formed throughout a lifetime: layer by colorful or complex layer. In my paintings, I let the form and placement of figures imply subsurface content and emotion. In my figurative sculptures, I explore the physicality and dimensions of those layers, juxtaposing strength and inner beauty with vulnerability and external imperfections. Highlighting the *imperfect* in a world that embraces limited definitions of beauty, my goal is to challenge those perceptions and transform the definition of beauty in the 21st Century.