

VISUAL LANGUAGE: MYSTERY AND MEANING

“The artist sets in motion a creative process that the viewer must complete.”
Marcel Duchamp

Visual Language is an invitation to explore the mystery and meaning of visual images and to participate in a dialogue about visual language between audiences who visit the museum and artists whose work is on display there.

Cheryl Calleri, Christel Dillbohner, and Thekla Hammond, artists who work in varied media and create individual imagery, will exhibit three different bodies of work in the museum and will suggest words to the viewers to initiate the process of uncovering meaning. There are no correct or incorrect ways to view the paintings, no right or wrong responses. The purpose of the words is to stimulate the viewers' personal emotional and intellectual responses to the visual imagery.

Please accept our invitation to participate in the conversation. A computer is provided in the museum for you to post your responses onto the blog. Or you may write about your reactions in the books on the table near the entrance. The artists will reply in kind as soon as possible.

The recorded dialogue between audience and artists will complete the artistic process. The articulation of the viewers' responses to the art and the artists' answers to those responses will live as a record of visual language, the discovery of how both audiences and artists find meaning in the mystery of visual imagery.

Cheryl Calleri

Dark Reaction focuses on neural structures and pathways as energy mass. Unseen by the naked eye, these occurrences are mysterious and difficult to imagine in scale and power. Calleri responds intellectually and subjectively to the stunning grandeur of these phenomena. This series is a tribute to Camillo Golgi and Ramon Cajal for their groundbreaking research in the beginning of the 20th Century on what brain cells look like and how they contact each other.

Christel Dillbohner

Christel Dillbohner transformed her emotional response to the invasion of Iraq into a visual catalyst, the basis for her creative process and for nonverbal communication. Her anger and sadness recorded in a daily process of musing on the progression of the war began to suggest other associations in the waxen accumulations of her surfaces. Apparitions formed, moved, shifted or vanished during her process and other visual possibilities became realities.

Thekla Hammond

Thekla Hammond's training in Intellectual History, the history of ideas, combines with her personal yearning for connection and unity in *Distinctions Without Differences*. Throughout recorded history and in all cultures, philosophers have posited the idea that unity and integration are major components of human experience. It is only our minds that create ideas of differences and lead to our sense of separation.