



**AUTHENTIC
VISUAL
VOICES:**

Contemporary
Paper & Encaustic

by Catherine Nash, M.F.A.

In the Studio with Lynn Sures

WHEATON, MARYLAND

Finding inspiration in the rhythm and patterns of nature, artist Lynn Sures is stimulated by topography: from the ripples of wind blown sand dunes in New Mexico to the undulating verdant hills of Scotland to the rock formations deep in the Frasassi Cave in Italy. She seeks to translate the sheer magnitude of the natural forces and terrain into art that captures the spirit of place. For Sures, concept is paramount. Whether she utilizes paper, encaustic, wood block printing, charcoal, clay or forged steel, Lynn uses whatever materials are most suitable for expressing a particular idea.

Sures is a deep thinker and ponders on the wonders of quantum physics, geology and the earth. It is not only how mountains form through plate tectonics, the forces of fire and lava and weathering by the elements but also the notion that land which is now being pushed to the surface, has never been viewed by human eyes intrigues her. Patterns on the earth reveal human traces and show our effect and impact upon land that has been generated from within the earth. Land that has seen so many millions of years has come into contact with us. *Amalfi*, a work Sures created of cast handmade paper and pulp painting, was motivated by her observations of the rocky coastline of Italy and was inspired by how surface patterns of the land also reveal the activities of civilization.

Time, geological time, is the underpinning for her creative ideas. Sures' new work

reflects her ventures into caves and caverns. It explores terrain one could equate with the inner depths of the mind. With no evidence of humankind deep within the earth, the viewer becomes the human presence: a blink in time within cave formations which have developed drip by drip over millions of years. — Catherine Nash





White Sands I, 1998
Handmade abaca paper
with encaustic.
23 x 35 in.



Wall from the Wall, 2012 detail right
One element from an 18-element installation,
cast cotton paper with pigmented flax pulp painting.
each element 25 x 20 x 1/2 in.
Photo: Mark Gulezian

Artist Statement

In my studio practice I start on an amorphous quest, without a clear idea of the formal outcome of a project, whether in linocut, woodcut, paper relief sculpture, ceramics, pulp painting or encaustic painting.

The reason for working is always clear in my mind. I relive some aspect of a place or experience—a narrative of a site, the course of the sun, a reverie of natural or architectural forms; a gift; anxiety; a moment of glory—redefined with all the inexactitude that memory imparts. What we experience, what we grasp—it lingers within us as memory.

The sciences of geology, anthropology, and physics guide me. They deal with forces on grand and minute scale, with time perception, with our evolutionary development, and with our understanding of the world and the universe. They take me into prehistory, or through geologic time, or to observe molecular activity. These elusive places enter into my work as much as landscapes do.

My work speaks for us fragile humans, the potency of our taste of existence; ages and eras; our antecedents and the future, our world in its most elemental state of motion. — Lynn Sures