

A Note from Michelle and Lyn on the Founding Principles of the Enso Circle



Collaboration

As the founding partners of our community, we model creative collaboration. Some of the basic beliefs we observe include a willingness to learn from each other and an unselfish readiness to teach each other. We have an abiding respect for each other's work which allows us to critique objectively. Each of us will often inform the other on how we might improve the direction of the individual or combined effort. This exchange of ideas is integral to the process.

We are advocates for our peers, colleagues, and students, and are passionate about sharing through example ways to inspire work that is complimentary and personal rather than copied. As collaborators, we model an appreciation for a diversity of ideas, a trust each other, and open and effective communication. We appreciate the time for coming together and the time for solitude in equal measure.

Spectrum of Experience

Both of us have a lifetime commitment to art, a dedicated studio practice, and respect from our peers. Other artists, collectors, and curators know who we are. We are both at ease talking about our art and sharing it with people. Each of us has a substantial body of work which shows decades of growth, innovation, and evolution. Our work can be found nationwide in institutions and private collections and we have had gallery representation for most of our careers.

Our teaching backgrounds run deeply through our art practice, and we have both designed groundbreaking directions in curriculum. We have taught at the university level and in national/international workshops. Affirmations from our students continue to encourage and inspire us.

Meaningful Content

This collaborative creative partnership is firmly grounded in the conviction that art is the physical manifestation of mysterious and unique human forces. One of those is intuition. Intuition happens "in here." it's an inner knowing, an ability to tune into knowledge in a non-rational, nonlinear way. We know something but we don't know how we know it.

Another is synchronicity. Often, artful content is inspired directly by synchronicity. Synchronicity is that uncanny coincidence, unlikely conjunction of events, or startling serendipity that happens "out there," against the odds. Something in the Universe seems to swing into place to answer an inner need we have.

Our work is also inspired by an instinct toward altruism and compassion, and we recognize the "how" of creating is often empty without the "why." Art does not have to be pretty, or representational, or restricted to a particular medium to be meaningful. Trusting ourselves and trusting the creative process brings confidence. Confidence can be learned through meaningful practice. We see ourselves as collaborators who can offer you tools and guidance for your creative quest.

Lyn Belisle and Michelle Belto, February 2021