

mary beth koszut

Artist Statement

The need to balance desires and responsibilities can be seen as one constant chaotic event. Through grace and perseverance, balance is often achieved until a situation or circumstance inevitably causes an element of collapse. This seeming failure, however, is only one aspect of the dichotomous nature of life.

My artwork strives to investigate the curiosity of continual contradiction that encompasses the growth process. I explore how paths seem impassable, yet we traverse them. How we constantly depend and interact with one another, yet often feel alone. How we are able to simultaneously build and collapse.

My visual vocabulary is inspired by the forest environment, where I feel most spiritually whole. I specifically abstract branches, roots, and rocks which appear as linear and circular shapes. These elements metaphorically represent individuals in search of physical, emotional, and spiritual stability. Their interdependence on one another for support, to achieve a precarious balance, is evident. Pushing and forming one another as they struggle, unable to transcend their environment, they achieve a fragile stability, which at any moment, could collapse.

Enamored with the expressive qualities of mark-making, I allow these elements to interact with one another, compiling environments of chaotic energy and balance. Repeatedly overlapping and removing imagery is analogous to building upon successes and letting go of unfortunate life events. This progression results in unexpected passages of color and shape, evolving through a series of unplanned situations.

I invite the viewer to find the beauty in this struggle of contradiction and see hope in the effort to maintain balance. Despite periods of seeming collapse, I ask the viewer to marvel at the strength they were given, allowing them to build upon successes in their own lives.