

# Nelda Warkentin

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## Artist's Statement

My work is about rhythm and pattern found in Nature. For me, one bird in flight is interesting, but birds flying in formation are mesmerizing. The same is true for other patterns around me – ocean waves, trees, blades of grass, etc.

Symmetry and the common design elements in Nature are also integral to my art. For example, the arc created by palm fronds, whales breaching and a raven swooping down is the same curved line.

My art also contrasts images in Nature with the architectural straight line. I create the straight line by constructing each work in sections. The line created where the sections join gives each work added interest.

I use color to convey light in a landscape, a mood or emotion.

Living in Alaska, and traveling in the United States and other countries, exposes me to an array of visual influences. Images and patterns created by the sunlight, colors and the environment unique to each locale are my inspiration.

While my work can be viewed as an abstract, my style offers metaphors about life:

- My work is done in layers. The image is not straightforward. People are also complex, with many 'layers' to their personality.
- Pattern and rhythm are integral to my art. The same is true in life and our environment. Pattern and rhythm exist throughout our environment.
- Curved and straight lines are incorporated into each work. In our environment, curved or irregular things made by hand contrast with 'straight' buildings, streets, etc.
- While each part is unique, the parts are similar. The same is true about people; each person is unique, but also alike. Many images in nature are also distinctive and, at the same time, similar.
- Symmetry and balance add beauty to my work. A successful life will have symmetry and balance.