

Artist Statement: Joan Robey

I recycle old materials. The most immediate part of the process is in seeing an object in a new way, removed from its original context. In reference to the Japanese aesthetic of *wabi-sabi*, there can be an implicit sadness in discarded objects that celebrates transience and imperfection, paired with a positive opportunity for their re-use.

The materials I use are selected specifically for surface and form, and the elements are combined to become metaphors for psychological situations. My work, while poetic in nature, also depicts chaos isolated in time and space. Circles, lines, squares and rectangles, aligned in combinations and in relationship to each other, articulate my observations of the human condition. Gravity and inevitability force us in one direction; Random and unpredictable events cause us to respond with spontaneous reaction. Life's "dance on the edge of the sword" forces us to move between balance and chaos. Duality is at the core of my work.

My concerns are with composition. Complex relationships emerge from simple juxtapositions. I refer to the discussions of Kandinsky and Malevich on the power of basic forms and shapes. The "right" combination of simple line, dots and planes has the ability to express and reflect tension that is quite real and primal. My hope is that the viewer feels the dynamics/tension in viewing my pieces, as if coming upon an act of chaos in midstream.

By projecting human predicaments onto inanimate objects, I can begin to objectify the human experience. In this way, the irony of our circumstances becomes apparent. The overlay of the human spirit adds the necessary humor.