

Clinton Deckert  
**Artist Statement**

I am an American painter born in Massachusetts and grew up in Southington, Connecticut where I reside and maintain my home studio. My work is inspired by the memories of my youth playing in tree houses, running through the woods, and splashing around the ponds, streams and swamps of the Northeast. I have always been curious to explore what lurks just beneath the surface, what's living under the log, or what's just around the bend in the river.

Over the years, I have developed techniques for creating artworks that are inspired by those abstract memories. The process begins as spontaneous playing and splashing thin loose washes of paint or ink over the primed board. I then blot it with rags or other available materials watching patterns and imagery emerge from the swamp of paint. At this transitional point, it seems that infinite possibilities may evolve and emerge into something new that has never been seen before. I then take a step back to see what develops as the paint runs, drips and blends into one another . . . I think of it as a painterly alchemy or conjuring of creative spirits. The subtle implied images that are generated are similar to the imagined objects that one may see in a clouded sky or reflections in the water. These chance images are then refined and resolved until the composition balances as a whole. I try not to think too much and use intuition to tell me what to do next. The end result is the documentation of my creative journey, which I can share with an audience. The process is an escape vehicle for me. The work is open for individual interpretation and may be experienced differently upon each viewing based on one's own life experiences and perspective. I hope the viewer may utilize the artwork as a catalyst for his or her own imaginative journey.

I hope to leave my mark behind when I leave this level of existence and my mark happens to be paintings. It's rewarding to think that some of my work may stand the test of time and still hang on a wall long after I am gone. It will become proof that I was here. In a strange way it may validate my existence, at least I hope it does. Perhaps my art will inspire some young artist as my forefathers have inspired me.