



PETER ILLIG | Artist Statement

The conflict between the rational mind and the darker urges of the unconscious informs my creative process.

Pulling images from a variety of sources, I combine them into paintings as one would create a collage. The combinations are metaphors for the power of images, sexual politics, and our distinctly American cultural life. I mine the past for images that still have currency in the present. I prefer *anachronisms*, which act as a kind of time travel, mixing old and new. Without being nostalgic, such imagery gives the paintings a sense of the elasticity of time. I set a stage where unlikely interactions can occur.

Images float in a fragmented world of what I like to think of as poetic juxtaposition. Seemingly unrelated subjects suggest intangible relationships and ambiguous messages. Multiple narrative strands are in play within a single painting. The work alludes to the way that popular image culture affects our way of seeing over time.

In the creation of the paintings I ask viewers to question and reflect on what they observe here, finding their own meanings. Ultimately, the subject is *painting*, not merely the objects in the paintings. Take *time* to discover and absorb what you see.