**Ellen Moershel |** Artist Statement

Lately I've been thinking about what creates a fantasy. What images cause a viewer's mind to wonder? Why is surrealism so captivating when it is so nonsensical? How can a painting spark a viewer's nostalgia while being a unique picture? How much representational imagery needs to go into an abstract painting so it may infuse the viewer's imagination? Why do humans love décor? Why does art go into sacred spaces? How does art facilitate spirituality?

With this series I am investigating these questions by painting enclosed spaces of a surreal environment. With each piece I consider how color affects mood. I use geometric figures and hints of linear perspective to indicate structure. I add organic shapes to show the wildness of the environment. It is growing, changing, and alive.