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Tricolor Gum over Cyanotype

I've included a sampling of some of my work to illustrate particular subject matter and techniques I use in the gum process. Those of you who know me, know that my 4 processes I concentrate on are 1. gum (my favorite), 2. mordantage, 3. hand colored BW prints, and 4. platinum. I am fascinated with bromoil but have not mastered it yet.

My content usually centers on cultural subject matter-people, life, irony, how people "work out their salvation" down on this odd planet. I usually add a dash of humor and a dash of sensuality to the mix. I try hard to do beautiful landscapes, but I just am not gifted in that way. I am convinced this is because my family of origin and my own family are both large, by today's standards. I have always been surrounded by people, and an observer of such.

Wrong Way is an example of what I term a muted/desaturated/monochromatic tricolor gum image. By varying the amount of pigment in my mix, I can just hint at color, or create brilliant color. This image makes me laugh, always. In contrast to Wrong Way is Jessie with Knives: this is not only brilliant, super saturated, comic style color, but also is an example of heavy scraping and brushing during development to create grit. This particular image was in a body of comic themed work and deals with the concept of the femme fatale.

G.I. Joe is also brightly saturated, but not brushed/scratched during development, and was an image I happened upon at a pool one day that fit with my love of pop art both in simplicity and boldness of composition and also the juxtaposition of plasticity (doll) and the human element. Interestingly, my husband can't stand this image, but when giving a slide show of my work to a crowd, I asked them if I should remove it from the body of work and they said unanimously, "No." Different strokes for different folks. ..

Finally, Voyeur is a kind of disturbing image, really. At first sight it seems floral and boring, until you look more closely, and then it is chilling, to my way of thinking. It still creeps me out. ..