

Ted Kingan / STATEMENT

... It is only during the painting process that the forms emerge and eventually define themselves. There is no attempt to predetermine the final configuration. One form provokes another until the various elements reach an idiosyncratic equilibrium and a sense of visual coherence is achieved.

Since my method involves both a conscious and an unconscious manipulation of images and materials, it cannot be understood as "pure psychic automatism," the terms used by André Breton to define surrealism in his First Manifesto in 1924. True automatic drawing or painting precludes any intervention of the conscious mind and the results will not necessarily possess traditional aesthetic values, whereas in my own work there is an obvious degree of deliberateness. My aim is to achieve a felicitous balance between the spontaneous blossoming of form and the need for visual explicitness. The task is to integrate these two opposing imperatives into as eloquent a totality as possible.

It is only through the act of painting or drawing that I am able to liberate and subsequently encounter the preternatural images which materialize with a slow spontaneity. Although the viewer may assume that I am principally concerned with the appearance of the finished work, the truth is that I gain even more pleasure from the actual process. ...







