

# Audrey Riley

I am interested in the concepts of chaos and order. Therefore, I find myself intrigued by the ways in which we humans try to order the chaos of our world through the use of language or numerals. I believe our desire to name and number everything stems from the need to feel that we are in control of our world, albeit illusory.

Letterforms are geometric shapes that can be understood as abstract and concrete at the same time. This duality interests me and therefore I explore that phenomenon in most of my work. Letterforms are abstract in their pure shape, but concrete when recognized as symbols which form words. I am interested in helping viewers divorce themselves from merely seeing letterforms as parts of words and begin seeing them as abstract shape, too.

Encaustic is my primary medium. I make a mixture of beeswax and damar resin that I then color. Through placing many layers of wax on top of each other I create a tension between colored shapes on the bottom layers and surface treatments. Encaustic offers a depth that I have never experienced in any other two-dimensional medium in which I have worked and it is holding me spellbound.