

Peter Fiore

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Artist's Statement

The White Pine Suite

Subjects Emerge...

Over time subjects emerge, commanding their importance. The white pine trees along the Delaware River have become my latest motif. Trees have always been an important subject for me and I believe on many levels that they are metaphors for life. They have long histories and many stories to tell. I'm often struck by how some trees are more than just trees, they are very much a presence. I have made many paintings of these pines – visiting often throughout the seasons.

Early spring. The day was overcast and the light was soft. As I approached, I was calm but something was different, a flash fire had swept through, charring all in its path. The ground had been stripped bare and my trees had been scarred. The skin of their trunks was blistered and blackened. Visually stunning.

At first I was horrified and saddened, but over time the trees not only survived but flourished. Their scars remain and have enhanced their beauty and character.

I became obsessed. Something deeper than their visual reality was haunting me. I endlessly searched for resolve. The unexpected answer came. It was me. I was witnessing my life.

I had been in a very bad automobile accident which left me quite battered and broken. After 6 months of rehabilitation and becoming reacquainted with myself, a new meaning for work was emerging. I had always used observation from life to be an inspiration for my work but now I found I wanted something more, something deeper, something richer that would have personal meaning.

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Artist's Statement, continued

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The white pines have become a metaphor for my life. My trees, although weakened and scarred have emerged stronger and thrive with a progress in nature's cycle. All life is full of challenges and there is resilience with strength and hope through the wisdom of acceptance.

Late winter. I came upon what would become a magical place. My cathedral. A clearing within a forest of white pines. A quiet and a reverence overwhelmed me. I was struck by this presence which has become the subject of my new body of work, *The White Pine Suite*.

Process...

The abstract marks that I make are used to interpret nature's tangle. Making visual sense and constructing order by structuring shape, form, tone, color and rhythm to create a palpable reality. These marks are very much a weaving process of blending color both optically and physically, a process I learned early in life while watching my grandmother and mother, seamstresses by day, knitting and crocheting for their family at night. A fascination of color and how it excites is the armature for which the *White Pine Suite* is structured.

The Suite...

The White Pine Suite is comprised of three parts -- first, *The Cathedral* which contains 14 paintings dealing with the exploration of white pines as spiritual entities. Each painting is a portrait or a pillar that makes up *The Cathedral*. The second part of the suite contains 4 paintings and is entitled *The Seasons*. It is the cycle of time as a visual journey through our physical world. The third part, *Passage*, is made up of 2 paintings and deals with our mortal world, the emergence of life and its ultimate end.