

Artist Statement for Alexandra Higgins

My work for the past 30 years has been on one theme called “roots” which is about the garden, plants, flowers, women, the physical work involved in gardening and a combination of these. In addition to being an oil painter, I am a cement sculptor and the theme of the garden and the “root” series translates well into this medium.

The “root series,” both in oil painting and sculpture, started from the physical work of gardening. In the spring, I was working in the ground and it was wet and I had been digging for hours. My hands were tired, worn and calloused and I looked at my hands. I had become part of the garden by working the soil, digging it, fertilizing it, smelling it, breathing it, and finally weeks and months later watching it take direction and grow.

After receiving credits toward a Doctor of Arts at SUNY Albany in 1993, I taught for 3 years and continue private lessons to students. I work mainly in oil paints, mixed media and cement sculptures. I am a full-time oil painter, sculptor, interior designer and gallery owner of "Window to the Garden."

The idea that we are not separate from our environment, but become what we make it (to choose to control or not to) appeals to me on many different levels. “In garden arrangement, as in all other kinds of decorative work, one has not only to acquire a knowledge of what to do, but also to gain some



wisdom in perceiving what it is well to let alone.” -Gertrude Jekyll