

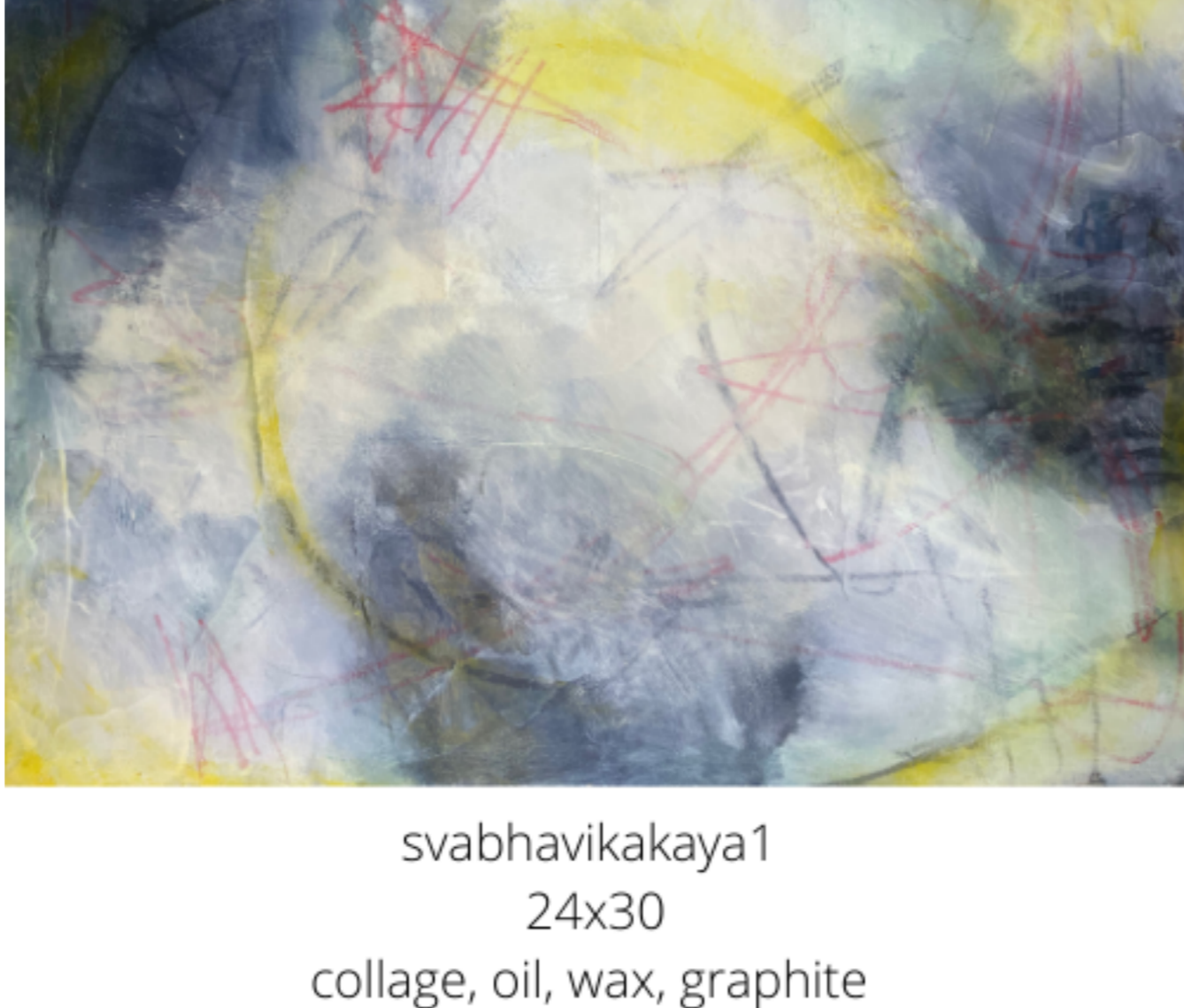
December 2021

I am pleased that you've joined me for another newsletter. I would enjoy hearing about what you like and don't like about it. Please share with friends and family as I grow my network. Should you want to hear about a particular subject, please let me know. Of course, you can follow me on social media through the links at the bottom of the newsletter.

Jennifer

What am I working on?

Working large has been calling to me recently. While it takes a while to complete one of these pieces, I enjoy working with mixed media, incorporating collage, acrylic paint, graphite, oil and wax. The two large pieces below were completed recently. Named svabhavikakaya as that is the hindu concept that thoughts have no birth, no dwelling, and no cessation.



svabhavikakaya 1

24x30

collage, oil, wax, graphite



svabhavikakaya 2

24x30

collage, oil, wax, graphite

Collage is showing up in smaller works as well. Two recent pieces



unexpected meeting

8x10

collage, oil, wax



abide

6x8

collage, oil, wax

Part 2: I found a piece of art that I love. Now what?

Doing something different

Contemporary options for mounting two dimensional artwork are easy and widely available. My [last newsletter](#) covered some of the more traditional ways of mounting artwork on the wall, generally focusing on frames, mats and glass. The new and more contemporary options have an added advantage of taking up less space. The art is the center of attention and no additional area is taken up by a frame and mat. Here are some ideas for mounting artwork, moving from the easiest to a bit more complicated. All of these can be done at home and are less expensive than professional framing.

Poster frame hanger

A poster frame hanger is a very simple and inexpensive option which uses magnets to create a clamp at the top and bottom of your picture. It works best for hanging art on paper. The back of the piece will be slightly visible, such that an individual could stand to the side of the artwork and look behind. [Sticks](#) makes some nice options. Other brands are widely available on Etsy and Amazon.



Sticks frame with embedded magnets

Rare earth magnets

Very small in size, rare earth magnets can be used on the surface of many pieces of art to attach the art to the wall. The general principle is to sandwich the piece of art between a rare earth magnet and something on the wall behind that attracts the magnet. Rare earth magnets are very small and often add interest to the display of a piece. The name 'rare earth magnet' might imply that these items are hard to find; however, such magnets are widely available online and some hardware stores. Here's a [good article](#) presenting different options for mounting using these magnets. The article above describes ways to offset magnets such that the artwork can appear to float above the wall - a simple and highly effective technique.

Cradle Board

Created from wood, a cradle board or cradle panel has a flat wooden surface reinforced with wooden strips on the back and around the sides. This reinforcement creates a rigid surface and prevents warping. The reinforcing strips generally have a depth between 1 1/2 to 2 inches. Cradle panels are readily available in many sizes or can be handmade should you need a custom size. The larger the panel, the more reinforcement needed, and often additional strips are added in the back; generally, a panel longer than 24 inches in any direction should have reinforcements. Artists often work on shallow cradle board and then frame a piece. Alternatively, a cradle panel can be painted on the sides and mounted directly on the wall.



front and back of cradle panels



back of a large cradle board

The beauty of a cradle board is that most art on paper or other bendable surface, such as canvas or linen, can be glued to the surface of the panel. The sides of the cradle board can be painted with a good acrylic paint or even leftover wall paint. The mounted artwork is on a raised surface and will hang easily with eye hooks and a picture wire. The piece will hang flat against the wall. There are several videos on YouTube that provide instruction on how to do this yourself. Alternatively, a framer can mount a piece on a cradle panel.

The two large pieces shown at the beginning of this newsletter, and repeated below, are done on canvas and mounted on cradle board. In this case, the canvas has been wrapped around the sides of the cradle board to create additional areas of interest.



svabhavikakaya 1

24x30

collage, oil, wax, graphite



svabhavikakaya 2

24x30

collage, oil, wax, graphite

[check out my website](#)

Exhibits

My drawing below was selected for the *Wind* exhibition at [District Arts](#), Frederick MD. A lovely gallery that has a wide selection of contemporary art.



summer storm

12x16

mixed media with ink, graphite and pigment.

[check out my website](#)

Moment of Zen - as the winter solstice approaches, this poem called to me again

Blessing for the Longest Night

All throughout these months  
as the shadows  
have lengthened,  
this blessing has been  
gathering itself,  
making ready,  
preparing for  
this night.

It has practiced  
walking in the dark,  
traveling with  
its eyes closed,  
feeling its way  
by memory  
by touch  
by the pull of the moon  
even as it wanes.

So believe me  
when I tell you  
this blessing will  
reach you  
even if you  
have not light enough  
to read it;  
it will find you  
even though you cannot  
see it coming.

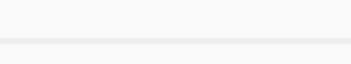
You will know  
the moment of its  
arriving  
by your release  
of the breath  
you have held  
so long;  
a loosening  
of the clenching  
in your hands,  
of the clutch  
around your heart;  
a thinning  
of the darkness  
that had drawn itself  
around you.

This blessing  
does not mean  
to take the night away  
but it knows  
its hidden roads,  
knows the resting spots  
along the path,  
knows what it means  
to travel  
in the company  
of a friend.

So when  
this blessing comes,  
take its hand.  
Get up.  
Set out on the road  
you cannot see.

This is the night  
when you can trust  
that any direction  
you go,  
you will be walking  
toward the dawn.

—Jan Richardson



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