Artist Statement

Making art is an opportunity I was afforded later in life. At the age of forty I began painting full time after retiring from nursing. For

me painting is about searching for a solution. As the painting progresses it takes on a life of its own. It begins to find its own

language and speaks to what is required to reach resolution. Finding a balance between abstraction and accuracy involves the

process of addition and subtraction. This is something that can’t be experienced without letting go of my expectations. When a

painting comes together it is magical in the sense that it results in what I experience as a fractured reality. I evolved from painting

landscapes, flowers and portraits to painting about the JFK assassination for the past 12 years. I was six years old when President

Kennedy was assassinated. I remember the deep sorrow and loss our country felt. My parents loved President Kennedy as did many

Americans. He stood for hope and change in our country. He chose the path of pursuing a lasting peace to end the cold war with the

Soviet Union. America seemed to lose hope and many mark the assassination as a day that our country lost its innocence. I always

wondered about the truth. Many stories and theories have surfaced to reveal that dark and sinister forces played a role in the

assassination of President Kennedy. I found a book of nearly all the archival photographs and film frames amassed by the author

Robert Groden about the JFK assassination. I was fascinated by the photos of the motorcade and the people washed in the glittering

November light. For me it was the beginning of my journey to paint about the assassination and explore one of the greatest

unsolved mysteries of all time. -Leslie Lanzotti