

## ABOUT: **ALCHEMY**

The *Alchemy* paintings feature four headless, androgynous figures; two placenta attached bodies; one flower painting whose stamen emerge phallic and fearsome and, finally, one metamorphosed butterfly.

I think these images stemmed from a psychic attempt at balancing my own inner male and female characteristics. I was trying to understand how personal power, sexuality and relationships of all kinds could work together in a non-competitive way.

I became increasingly interested in using natural materials like mica, chrysocolla, amethyst and quartz crystals. I was trying to create a sense of radiance on the canvas wherein light came from the materials themselves, without a need for light from the supporting environment as I had used for the installation of *A Moving Point of Balance*.

Philosophically, the alchemists were trying to create a way of understanding and manipulating the natural world. Alchemy was a proto-science, a forerunner of modern chemistry and physics. In many ways it was another belief system. Just as Greek philosophy attempted to explain the workings of the world as being governed by four (or five) elements, alchemists sought governing laws to turn base metals into noble ones and a way to create an elixir of immortality.

In my own way, *Alchemy* was my reaching to turn my paintings into noble medals (pun intended), one more reach for immortality.