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Between the lines

By Paula Diane Relf



Artist Statement: Random rusted artifacts from construction sites, old motors, and a special piece from an artist whose terminal cancer forced her to part with incomplete work. I promised to integrate it into some of my work. There are many stories to be told by the materials that artist use to write between the line.

Artist Biography: Much of my art is about finding discarded objects and manipulating them to explore their potential; then combining these new objects into statements of appreciation of the mundane. It questions the validity of a throwaway society, the value of always needing new, and the perfection of machinery precision. It celebrates the daily detritus that has lost its meaning and gives it a new opportunity to open eyes and minds.

My art is based on my experience with and love of the natural environment. As such, it is never perfect, incorporating rough edge and unbalanced lines into its symmetry in acknowledgement of the broken beauty of nature.

Working with Rust I have long had a love affair with rust and much of my work explores rust's potential in creative expression in many forms: wood and rust sculpture; rust dyed and printed textiles and paper; wearable art; metal masks; altered art tiles; photography; and digital graphic "collages".

Bio Born and raised poor in Texas, I learned young to play with discarded items and appreciate the value of things that most people found useless. A career in academia had demands that derailed me from playing with art. But since retirement several years ago, I have continuously created and recreated my art.