

Ahna Serendren  
[www.ahnaserendren.com](http://www.ahnaserendren.com)  
[ahna.serendren@gmail.com](mailto:ahna.serendren@gmail.com)  
(858) 525 5298

**Statement Specific to Current Body of Work:**

Employing accident, chance and unwieldy studio tools, I create gestural, abstract paintings that explore natural forces outside of our control. I like to play the line between chaos and order as I paint, reflecting on this balance in nature at large, particularly during this time of extreme weather patterns and climate change.

I incorporate sand into my work, which I collect from beaches all along the coast of California, where I grew up. Mixing the sand in with the paint I create textured reliefs on the surfaces of the paintings, often alluding to bodily shapes, or patterns of movement in nature. Bold, synthetic colors pop against natural earth tones, pointing toward humankind's imbalanced relationship with the earth.

In the initial stage of my painting, I use an assortment of non-traditional tools, such as mops, hoses and water balloons. These free me up to make energetic, bodily gestures and keep the process playful, like an absurd dance or theater performance. Periodically, my young daughter participates in the process, which is often like collaborating with a force of nature. She flings sand, overturns buckets and wreaks a dazzling kind of havoc. I take the paintings that we work on together back into my studio, where I return to them with a deeper, more deliberate process. Following the push-pull between chaos and order on the surface of each canvas, I search for that point when something raw emerges, when the painting takes on its own mysterious force and internal sense of purpose.