



Catherine Jo Morgan - Artist Statement

I make art to give people energy. It's the kind of energy you feel when you're in love, or doing something you love so that time means nothing. I get this kind of energy from the woods around my studio, and it flows into the paintings and sculptures I make. This psychic energy stays available in the artwork.

I specialize in Vessel of Energy™ sculptures. Each one includes at least one bowl or vessel form. It's like making bowls of energy. This is because vessels are the most powerful form for holding energy and giving it when needed. I know it's working when I glance out the window and the woods seem to light up. Everything glows. Or I look at a Vessel of Energy™ and it encourages me, takes me deeper into being myself.

I use basic, down to earth materials like iron and paper. I can feel the life in these materials so I want to help them show it. In a deeper sense, my material is the very energy of aliveness. I find this energy both in wild places as I walk in the woods, and deep in my own being as I form the paper and iron. I add whatever else the bowl wants – coloring, candle, vase, gemstone sphere, beads, soft dried grass, metallic threads – anything it asks for.

Trained as an artist-blacksmith, I venture beyond my training when I forge and weld openwork iron vessels. The open spaces let energy flow freely and make lights dance in the bowl's shadow. These sculptures are meant to assist you in creating the life you want - following your true path, from the inside.

I love both iron and paper, And I love the tension between their qualities. Strong, resistant iron looks so dead at first: just dull gray bars, "dead as a doornail." Yet hidden inside, iron is really a dance of electrons. If I can show at least some of this life in the iron, might it shock us more alive ourselves?

Soft paper is fragile, vulnerable. Yet it can have amazing durability. I love paper too for its connection with the plants and trees I've loved since childhood. Paper suggests possibility, invitation, the call to create.

My new "Energy Transformer" sculptures harmonize these opposing energies of paper and iron. I've wanted to do this for many years – to bring my two loves together. It's like making peace between parents who loved each other, yet couldn't resolve their terrible differences. It's like bringing the two extremes of myself into one person. Inner conflicts become sources of creative energy.

All my artworks are meant to be true friends of the soul. They're blessings for your journey in life. May your life glow - and may you know it.