

*The Body Series*  
Paintings Explored



### **From the Artist**

I created this book as a way to share my work in "The Body Series" more deeply and personally. While the work will always "perform" best tangible and in person, it is my hope that this collection which follows can perform just as well as seeing the works live in person and perhaps illuminate some of the concepts and thoughts used in "The Body Series."

- Suzanne Clements

## Foreword

I first became familiar with Suzanne Clement's work in the summer of 2004 while writing for a local arts and entertainment weekly in Lansing, Michigan. I interviewed Suzanne for a piece I was writing about her first solo exhibition at a small frame shop in town.

What first struck me about Suzanne was her honesty and openness in talking to me about her struggle with an eating disorder and her acceptance of her body. After I met Suzanne that day, I looked at her self-portraits for the first time and saw pieces of myself in them – the anguish, the embarrassment, the fright that covered her face resonated with me. My conversation with Suzanne about her battle helped me open up to her about mine later that afternoon. Her paintings from the “Confronting Me” series ignited an ongoing dialogue between us about our self-image, our anxieties, and our traumas.

It's that powerful connection and emotional impact in Suzanne's paintings that strike a chord with observers of her work. Although her pieces are self-portraits, there is something very universal about the emotions she conveys in her canvases. Her pieces capture raw emotion, instants of distress and disconnect, console and peace. Suzanne isolates the subject in each of these scenes to show a moment of contemplation or awareness, giving the viewer an intimate slice of the subject's experience.

Throughout the last year, I have seen Suzanne's work evolve from her first solo show inside a tiny frame shop to major solo and group exhibitions at credible art spaces. During this past year, she has moved from painting what she sees on the surface - tortured, haunting images of herself - to diving deeper into her complex pool of emotions and portraying that complexity on canvas. She executes each piece with elegance and precision. She does this with tact and grace to create fluid works that document the human condition.

As you leaf through this collection of works, the emotional intensity of the pieces will hit you with an impeccable force. The works in “The Body Series” echo each of our individual struggles to find that one moment of complete peace in our day, an instant where we can shut out all the disturbances in our heads and melt in the calm and quiet of the moment. Suzanne Clements has given us a body of work that helps each of us find comfort in not only her paintings, but in our own lives.

Carla Kucinski  
Lansing, Michigan  
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## **Heal**

Heal was the first piece in the series to emerge from the bright jewel-toned colors and glossy finished paintings of the previous body of work. Darker and more ominous, it's the first painting where I really felt like I was finally opening up.

Vulnerable and alone, the subject sits holding herself. She wants to once again know the sensation of nothingness, the sensation of health. Constant longing seeps in, the type of longing one experiences at times when our understanding of "normal" has been breached. She wants things to be the way they were, to take it all for granted again.



"Heal" | 18"x24"