

Influenced by a recent art residency in Assisi, Italy and a trip to Japan to study textile design, as well as Byzantine & Northern Renaissance painting, Dante's Divine Comedy and the Hindu epic, The Ramayana, among others, Ms. Slaymaker's otherworldly environments are often inhabited by a lone figure lost in a chaotic world.

She combines 'puzzle piece' images (from sketchbooks and her own photos) to create relationships between disparate elements, looking for connections. Jill attempts to confirm the concept from Western physics and Eastern philosophy that all phenomena is interdependent and interconnected. Fritjof Capra's writings on chaos theory are especially fascinating. He explains that, thanks to advanced computer technology, the movement of clouds, fire, falling leaves and other forms of motion in nature previously thought to be somewhat random or 'chaotic,' are actually measurable and have very similar mathematical patterns.

Ms. Slaymaker's new series of gouache explorations usually begin with parts of an orange tree. Ever since a trip to Rome where she healed quickly from an illness painting under a 900-year-old orange tree still bearing fruit, she includes an orange tree in almost every work. The orange tree is for her a symbol of rejuvenation and hope.