

## Searching For Universal Truths

My search for Universal Truths began during my travels, when I first noticed common signs and symbols in ancient art from diverse cultures in different countries.

Did our ancestors know things we have since forgotten? Why did the Inca and Aztec people in South America make marks similar to what I saw in tribal art in different African cultures? And why do these art works resemble the some of the marks of the Hopi Indians and ancient drawings found in European caves?

My research lead me to discover that there are many theories on this subject, ranging from the migratory paths of our ancestors, to space aliens, to a higher power showing us the way.

Charles M. Butter PH.D, in his book *Crossing Cultural Borders Universals in Art and Their Biological Roots* professes, as his title suggests, that these commonalities stem from our common biological brain function. He contends that a visual preference has evolved among humans as a necessary survival skill.

Others think this commonality or visual preference can be traced back to patterns in nature - the spiral in a shell, the curve of an ocean wave or the veins in a leaf.

I have come to believe that there are a combination of explanations that, when melded together, appeal to both the logical and a more intuitive parts of my brain. Instinct, art, science and history tell us we are all connected.

We are all driven by the same basic needs: to eat, multiply and survive; and we all travel through the same stages of life: birth, aging and death or, as some believe, transition to an afterlife.

I appreciate the opportunity to share this body of work. I have explored our connectivity and art as a universal language from three different perspectives: the use of common symbols and patterns; shared life cycle experiences and beliefs; and prints inspired by textile patterns around the world.