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“A retrospective of the artwork by MARTY KREITHEN” October 2-22nd 2009

Biography

The best part about being an artist is that you don't have to copy the exact values and details found in your subject. You abstract or create your own image and design and you decide if it works for you, the artist. Rules are broken every time you try to be original and I have found that looking at and studying the canvas repeatedly is the most helpful way of ending up with your own creation.

We must learn to use our senses more, especially sight, when it comes to art. Anyone who can really see can paint and create. The technical rules are learned and then must be used only to the extent that the artist desires. After limiting the use of our senses, which we all do, it requires a great deal of effort to expand the limited sense, whether it be the sense of sight, smell, hearing, touch or taste.

When painting I spend a great deal of time looking at the canvas and changing it to reflect what I really see or want the canvas to show me. I paint from the canvas and therefore I can start with a figure and end up with a landscape or bowl of flowers or an abstract etc.

I have learned this after being originally trained to copy or recreate the subject matter and then after many years of looking I see things which when reduced or expanded on the canvas add to the final result. You get color with your eyes open and your value by squinting. I learned to look at shapes and values, not things and switch over to the right side of the brain's understanding of spatial relationships instead of depending on the left brain's technical skills. Remember, value does all the work and color gets all the glory.

You can imagine how the above affects a practicing attorney who deals with the Law and rules all day and uses art to escape from the legal world which depends on strict interpretation of legal precedent.

I have been a serious student of painting for over forty (40) years and have exhibited in numerous group shows and have been taking classes and been actively involved with the following Art Institutions: Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Main Line Art Center, Cheltenham Art Center Philadelphia Museum of Art, Vermont Studio Schools, Art in Progress, Wallingford Art Center, Fleisher Art School, New Jersey Council of the Arts, Boca Raton Museum Art, Woodmere Art Museum

I've been a practicing attorney for more than fifty years. In addition, I am active in numerous charitable organizations, including Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Har Zion Temple and Abramson Center for Jewish Life, where my paintings are on display.