

Artist's Statement

Roger W. Bass



The Basics

I have always enjoyed drawing, and as an Architect, most of my livelihood depended upon it. When I was an undergraduate, we always started every studio session with at least 30 minutes of Gesture drawing. I still like it, not only as a “warm up”, but as a means to capture the action or motion either inherent or implied in even inanimate objects. The two paintings I am showing in this exhibition are a natural extension of that early training. You might think of them as Gesture drawings “on steroids”.

Whether it is a dancer moving to the music in her head, a dog chasing after a ball or the sense of movement in the cumulous clouds of a fast moving cold front, I still enjoy attempting to capture the feeling of the gesture. Even in landscapes, cityscapes and seascapes, my initial sense of the gesture in the scene becomes one of the principal generating ideas in every painting.

The Joy Rediscovered

Years ago one of my kids was visiting me at work. He was getting a bit boisterous and noisy, and my wife admonished him to be quiet, since he might be disturbing all the people trying to work. He looked up at her like she had lost her mind and just said, **“They not workin Ma, they drawin!”** Getting back to the basics of having fun with the play of drawing is what has drawn (pun intended) me to painting.

By adding the tools of color & texture to drawing, Painting increases the opportunity for expression exponentially. One of the aspects of Acrylics which I enjoy is its ability to be used as everything from translucent washes to almost sculptural impasto. This has let me take a step back to the time when drawing was an actual physical activity and to recapture that sense of play and joy to which that little boy was referring.

These paintings are about joy. Not only the joy I experience in creating, but the joy clearly shown by the subjects. Dancing to the music in their heads and simply finding the joy within themselves in the present moment.