

# Artist's Statement



Roger W. Bass

703-405-0208 [www.rwbass.art](http://www.rwbass.art) P.O. Box 2286, Walnut Creek, CA 94595

## **The Basics**

Years ago one of my kids was visiting me at work. I was in a drafting room, back in the day this was a large room with an array of tables anywhere from 48" to 60" long, with people bent over them squinting and drawing lines with pens or pencil on mylar coated vellum or some other similar material.

He, the youngster, 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!***"

To his 3 year old eyes it was clear as day, drawing is play not work. We all need to remember that lesson.

Getting back to the basics of having fun with the play of drawing is what has drawn (pun intended?) me to painting.

## **The Joy Rediscovered**

When I discovered the world of Acrylics and everything they could do, it was a revelation. This stuff can be used as everything from translucent washes to almost sculptural impasto with ease. For me, this was taking a step back to childhood, when drawing was an actual physical activity. Do you remember finger paint? I do!

I now paint for the pure joy of the painting experience.

Joy is something in short supply in today's world. So, as I experience the enjoyment of the creative painting experience, it is my hope to transmit some of that feeling out to the world.

## **The Simple & The Complex**

I enjoy taking simple geometric shapes and using them as the bases for exploration. Intersections, overlaps, layers and textures lead to often lovely and unexpected shapes & colors. I delight in using an array of media, including extra heavy gels, to play with transparent, translucent and semi-opaque layers. I like taking simple tools such as combs, forks and even fingers to make a wide range of textures.

Given my decades of experience as an Architect and Urban Planner, I am naturally attracted to city-scapes as a subject matter, not so much as a means of recording, but in order to sometimes find hidden or unusual effects. These can be due to the environment, weather, lighting etc, or geometry. An example might my painting Three Towers, inspired by the

## Artist's Statement

discovery on a San Francisco Bay Ferry Ride, that from a particular viewpoint, the Coit Tower, the Transamerica Tower and the Salesforce Tower, each one of which is unique, all appear to be the same height.

Another example might be the painting "Golden Gate" in which the iconic bridge is backlit on a cold, windy and overcast day, virtually obliterating any perception of the bright orange paint job and rendering the bridge, the bay and the adjoining headlands all in muted grey, blacks & blues.

I will keep searching for situations that surprise and delight and try to keep illustrating them for you.

For more information you can visit my website; [www.rwbass.art](http://www.rwbass.art) or find me on Instagram as WCGarageStudio. (Since my regular studio is closed due to Covid-19, for the past 16 months, my garage has been serving as my studio.)