

MIKE TURPIE

Mike Turpie's artwork can be described as "New Expressionism". The rich impastos on Turpie's canvases depict highly colorful scenes verging on the abstract. This evocative use of color and bold brushwork are hallmarks of Turpie's paintings. His free handling, which comes close to German Expressionism and includes subtlety and loose draftsmanship, captures fleeting atmospheric effects.

Turpie's influences include Turner, Cézanne, Van Gogh and Kokoschka. In Turpie's latest works, where color is stronger than ever, a familiarity with Jack Yeats, Georgia O'Keefe and Howard Hodgkin can be detected.

"A recent artist-in-residency within a Scottish coastal environment dramatically changed my palette. Extreme wind and rain kept me focused in the studio while briefly venturing out to absorb and remember the beauty and drama of the Scottish skies. Rapid brushwork on thicker weave canvas and use of darker tones heighten the expression. The human figures are simplified into a series of loose brushstrokes."

Biography

Mike Turpie was born in Perth, Scotland. He attended Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art (1973-1978) graduating with a Diploma in Drawing and Painting. During his studies, Mike was awarded the Pat Holmes Memorial Prize for drawing and studied landscape painting under Peter Blake at Hospitalfield Summer School in Arbroath. After College Mike spent several years teaching art in schools in Edinburgh as well as being awarded a Fulbright scholarship to teach in the U.S.

Mike was awarded the Duncan of Drumfork and Farquhar Reid Traveling Scholarships, which enabled him to travel to Aix-en-Provence and Northern Italy in order to study the work of Cézanne and Titian. Mike returned to Hospitalfield earlier this year having been awarded an artist-in-residency by the Alumni Association.

Mike now works from his studio based in rural Angus and occasionally at Dundee Contemporary Arts Print Studio. Mike's work is featured in private, public, and corporate collections including Städt Aschaffenburg, Royal Bank of Scotland, Tayside Health Board, University of Dundee Fine Art Collection

Solo Exhibitions

Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland
Bridge Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Sierra Arts, Reno, Nevada, USA
Millman Legacy Gallery, Spanish Fork, Utah, USA
Kinblethmont Gallery, Colliston, Angus, Scotland
Artists Lunch, Discovery Point, Dundee, Scotland
Collective Exhibition, The Meffan, Forfar, Scotland.
Hanover Fine Arts, Edinburgh, Scotland

Bank Street Gallery, Kirriemuir, Angus, Scotland
Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee, Scotland
Filmhouse , Edinburgh, Scotland
Jeansburn Gallery, Ettrickbridge, Scottish Borders, Scotland
McManus Galleries, Dundee, Scotland

Artist Statement

"The Conversation"

"Net Menders"

Canvas – 13 oz. Superflax

Medium – "Old Holland" Oil Paint

"These paintings are two of a series of eight, which were completed during June 2007. I was working to express the extreme weather conditions present around the eastern coastline of Scotland at that time. My intention was to convey freshness of hue through rapid brushwork often mixing the pigment directly on the canvas sometimes leaving out the palette stage altogether.

The inclusion of figures working outdoors recall the early works of Van Gogh and also Millet. They exist as almost abstract elements with a complexity and tonal range at one with their surroundings. I view the work as a composition with no part having greater importance than any other. The distorted geometry of the houses and harbor wall interacts totally with the broad swathes of pigment suggesting sea and sky. Background and foreground features are equally important in a tonal and color sense. The intention of both works is to express emotion and promotes something grander and deeper than a simple representational illusion."