

DOUGLAS ANDELIN

Painting is a place where I go to be small. To be an observer of forces much greater than myself and to be humbled by the experience of nature. I feel that nature is my greatest teacher. I ask questions about perception, time, space and myself as an artist. Standing there I strive to look outside my own answers and listen. I want to shed what I know and reach into the paint and grasp a new honesty. I am in a constant balancing act between searching and forgetting; asking and listening; consciousness and unconsciousness.

The process of my painting is simple and pure. I paint outside, directly from life. This is where the life of the painting begins. My inspiration is drawn from the changing forces of nature; fog, water, movement, weather. Painting directly in such demanding and chaotic conditions brings me to an exciting depth of place. My paintings carry this vitality as I am consumed by the changing light and the tumultuous relationship between man and nature.

Painting has a long history within my family, but I am more deeply rooted in the history of painting itself. The voices I hear are Turner, Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Monet and Wyeth. I sometimes turn to my mentors for solace, fortitude and grace. Though I feast on the poetry of my heroes, I am beholden to the current state of our natural world. I wish to inspire the viewer to consider our actions on the earth and to value our role of stewardship.

Repetition and Renewal

I use the figure to explore both the plastic world of paint and the inner world of the sitter. By mixing and blurring these two interests, I believe that there can be a greater potential for figurative content beyond the realm of realism. I do not believe in a formula for painting, but rather, in imagination, adaptation and courage to persevere through the creative process and inner dialogue for its own sake. The abstract quality of this body of work allows space for the viewer to reflect on themselves and their own humanity.

I gather my inspiration from direct observation - witnessing the silence, breath and unfolding grace within every sitter. This first expression or response becomes the gateway to an ongoing artistic conversation.

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