



Steve Dehlinger

Artist/painter

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Motivation:

I am primarily an abstract painter, currently working with acrylic on canvas. I credit the bad vision of my youth (before adults figured out I needed glasses!) with helping me see the world in large blocks of colors and shapes. My childhood home was filled with a blend of Japanese and Scandinavian design elements. As a result, the simple abstract designs with large washes of colors calm and excite me at the same time. Adding contrasts of washed color areas against blocks of visual and dimensional textures has been a great focus of my colorfield work. Playing with hue and tone of color gives me endless excitement. Images hint at a landscape or representation, not always a conscious effort. These are sometimes what I see in my inner landscape. I may occasionally incorporate or imply a representational design element to reinforce what I want to say, but I like the work to bring out different things in individual people. What people see in the paintings always surprises and delights me. Influences and inspirations range from Wayne Thiebaud to Robert Rauschenberg to Mark Rothko. From abstract expressionists and pop-art icons to my abstract and iconic contemporaries. My work looks at our inner being and observes how we search the self or soul and natural world for answers and new questions. I hope the viewer feels an emotional response to the colors, shapes and textures. My latest paintings observe how we relate with objects we have used everyday. How the memories and emotions reflect on those favorite worn tools and even trusty old appliances, favorite old toys, comforting objects like a cozy chair or even the special cup of coffee or pot of tea that warms you inside physically and comforts your soul.



Extra butter #1, 36"x36" 2002



Within #1, 24"x24" 2000

History:

Starting in my teens (1970's), I studied many disciplines ranging from illustration and painting (landscapes, portraits, still lifes, etc.), to cartooning and commercial graphic design. My college studies directed me towards a commercial art degree. I have been a freelance commercial artist for the past 2 decades.

Through the 1980's and 1990's, along with a lot of freelance graphic design work, I always worked a generic day job and raced bicycles full time (which developed my discipline and focus). By the late 90's, I had mostly retired from bicycle competition. The commercial art industry had also run it's course for me, and I needed to paint again.

I found that I wanted to move away from the creative limitations of a structured graphic design environment, yet embrace elements of it. In late 1998, I decided to get back to my fine art roots and opened a studio to reacquaint myself with canvas and brush, as well as to explore unlimited freedom of expression again. I have recently re-embraced elements of commercial art and childhood and incorporate them into much of my new work allowing me to grow with my past as a whole person.

Current and Upcoming Shows:

October 16-17 2004, San Francisco Open Studios, 1942 43rd Avenue at Ortega, 11am-6pm

Past Shows and Exhibits:

June 5-6, 2004, 2nd annual "Art in the Avenues" Group show: 50 artists from Sunset and Richmond Hall of Flowers, 9th & Lincoln, San Francisco

May 26, 2004 - Artspan auction, Canvas Gallery, SF

Feb. 6-7, 2004: Valentine's Art Exhibition, Sunset Artists Society, Sunset Community Center

December 2003, "Food for Thought" group show, Lisa Coscino Gallery, Pacific Grove, CA

October 4-5 2003, San Francisco Open Studios, 1942 43rd Avenue at Ortega, 11am-6pm

September 26-28, 2003, Sunset Art Festival Group Art Show with Sunset Artists Society Sunset Community Center, Lawton at 28th Ave, SF

July 20-Aug 24, 2003, Group Show, King's Gallery SF

June 4, 2003 - Artspan auction, Canvas Gallery, SF

May 31 - June 1, 2003, "Art in the Avenues" Group show: 39 artists from Sunset and Richmond, Hall of Flowers, 9th & Lincoln, San Francisco

Feb. 15-March 29, 2003, Solo exhibit, Main room, Cafe Arrivederci, 11 "G" Street, San Rafael

February 7-8, 2003: Valentine's Art Exhibition, Sunset Artists Society, Sunset Community Center

Oct. 26-Nov. 21, 2002: Solo exhibit, Center room Cafe Arrivederci, 11 "G" Street, San Rafael

October 19-20, 2002, San Francisco Open Studios

Sept. 1-13, 2002: DeYoung Art Center, Group Show Irving Street at 26th Avenue, San Francisco Exhibiting with the Sunset Artists Society

August 24 to September 13, 2002: Solo exhibit Cafe Arrivederci, 11 "G" Street, San Rafael

February 8-9, 2002, HeART of the Sunset Art Show Sunset Community Center, San Francisco

October 2001, San Francisco Open Studios

May 2001, Sunset Artists Society Spring Art Show Sunset Community Center, San Francisco

Dec. 15, 2000 to March 15, 2001 Exhibition of nine large paintings. FusionDM offices: 355 Fremont St, San Francisco

December 2000, Sunset Artists Society Art Show Sunset Community Center, San Francisco

October 2000, San Francisco Open Studios

September 23, 2000, Sunset Community Festival Outdoor Group Art Show with SAS Sunset Community Center, San Francisco

September 2000: 3-Artist Show at Sea Biscuit Cafe, San Francisco with Steve Dehlinger, Karen Danese and David Steinhardt

August 2000, Sunset Artists Society Art Show Sunset Community Center, San Francisco

May 2000, "Get Hooked at Hang" Art Auction Benefit for SF Open Studios, HANG Gallery, SF

October 1999, San Francisco Open Studios

Spring 1999, Daly City Arts Festival