

Joseph V. DeLuca

The post modern aesthetic reflects a preoccupation with the future and a celebratory focus on technological feats. With each new digital innovation there is a clamoring of many artists and creative people to contrive creative methods of utilization. One might easily say that the creative motivation expressed in Joe DeLuca's work reflects the flip side of this aesthetic coin. Tracks and traces of history of man and nature are richly etched, collaged and painted onto surfaces, reflecting a profound concern with his environment and its history. In his travels, improvisational collections of materials are gathered to express observation of the patinas of aging and decay. His masterful drawings view like plein air execution of marks of civilization. Implicit in these marks are expressive gestures of cultural heritage and emotional reflections. His personal history includes many years as a professor of fine art, attempting to extol the virtues of the master and student system that has existed since the Renaissance. Doing institutional time was never enough for DeLuca, as he proved a serious exhibition artist and student himself of contemporary art issues throughout his teaching career as well as his retirement from teaching. He has always been a voracious reader, maintaining one of the most impressive art libraries I have seen. With vitae that include major exhibitions, there is a profound savvy illuminating a genesis of learnedness from his creative passion and some of his abstract expressionists university instructors.

Though abstract in nature, Deluca's works can more accurately be described as representations of those things that go mostly unnoticed in our environment. Thus the appearance tends toward the undefined, unacknowledged elements that are mundane to most. They are celebrated in his works as if they were indeed leitmotifs of history, jewels of the metaphysical nature of things. He captures these elements in a manner expressive of the kindness and concern of his basic nature; loving, observant, passionate artist and concerned citizen of planet earth.

Joseph DeLuca rails at the notion that art should be brought down to a pedestrian level, simplified to the extent that everyone should understand it. As an educator, Joe holds to the belief that it is the artistic community's role to inform, educate and enlighten the public regarding the history and current trends of art. Humans have made art as long as they have been present on the planet, thus there seems to be an innate predisposition to visually reflect those things present in our environment and imaginations in a creative manner. His works, "attempt to visually appear to mark a passage of time'. There is a notable regard, as he states, "to dignify a particular space and maintain the delicate balance that life necessitates and demands". Without question, this work appeals to the higher attributes of our aesthetic nature.

Rufus Snoddy
Artist
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