

ONE PAINTER'S PRACTICE

The question, "What should I paint?" is one which every painter must consider. Many art historians and critics believe that this question is a difficult one to answer in our technological era which is characterized by so much visual imagery.

I paint in order to reflect upon existence itself, and therefore my work functions as a visual record of my thoughts, concerns and bodily responses to being itself. My practice is therefore contemplative and in fact, spiritual.

Artists can learn about the world and themselves through their craft. I tend to regard myself as a filter or a receptor. I live in the country, surrounded by the rugged and beautiful landscape of the Outouais. I take it in, contemplate it, transform it, and then put it on canvas. I consider its value and my place within it.

The landscape also has an influence on my abstract work, for the work references earth, trees and water. This work is often informed by my environmental concerns. The abstract paintings result from an intuitive process which functions like a dialogue with the canvas. I apply paint to the canvas and it responds back; perhaps it asks for more red or blue. The painting's end is not predetermined from the outset. However, I bring all my interests, concerns, anxieties and affections to the canvas, either consciously or unconsciously. In this respect I am somewhat influenced by the Automatistes. So to answer the question, I paint what Paul Tillich has called, "that which is of ultimate concern."