



Jim Bobick, *Fragile*, Oil on Canvas, 2005, 24 x 18 inches

Artist Looks Beyond the Temporal Beauty

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This exhibition features two different styles presented in two different groupings throughout the establishment. The first grouping of works reflects the main theme of the show, abstracted florals – and the second consists of the larger, dramatic Rothkoesque landscape inspired abstracts with which Bobick is most connected.

While both prove to be equally effective, it is important not to overlook the florals because of their smaller size and simplistically rendered form. These are not your everyday florals because while not only beautiful, they also prove to be both inspired and memorable.

In a conversation with Bobick, I learned about his deep interest with existential philosophy. His goal was to express his thoughts on existence in connection to the philosophy through his art. The floral series was born through this desire. Each of these intimate works focuses on one particular bloom caught in the different stages of progression of eventual decline. There is a subtle and profoundly individualistic beauty that is created when one happens to catch the glimpse of delicate rose petals as they silently fall from the bloom. It conjures up all kinds of thoughts and emotions in the mind of the viewer. When you realize that the abstract shapes of color that drift about the bloom in these works represent just that, then you instantly look at them with a different eye. These works simplistically rise above the ordinary with a Zen like sensibility that speaks loudly about the issue of individuality, life, death and the eternal connectedness of it all.

The second group of works in this exhibition are composed of dramatic and richly hued emotive abstracts that border on the narrative. Landscape inspired painterly shapes drift across heavily textured Azurite hued canvas with the intensity of a murky and mysterious nighttime cloud that appears only for a split second when backlit with a cracking bolt of lightening. My favorite of these works is the large-scale oil on canvas entitled “Mystagogue.”

I realized while studying this exhibit that it was Bobick’s ability to capture these split-second, nature inspired, freeze-frame moments in time that I found most compelling. His dramatic color choices and use of paint is only icing on the cake.