

# An Artist's Manifesto/The Tao of Painting

'Always be a beginner...'- Suzuki Roshi

## INTRODUCTION

For the Artist, being absorbed in the practice is the ultimate payoff. The word practice connotes a commitment and devotion to what one does. For the artist this becomes her/his whole experience, and not other than who or what one is. All of it goes into each moment of the art. In this practice it is always unfinished and it is always complete. This Artist's Manifesto is dedicated to the sustenance and evolution of the practice.



## COLOR IS GOD

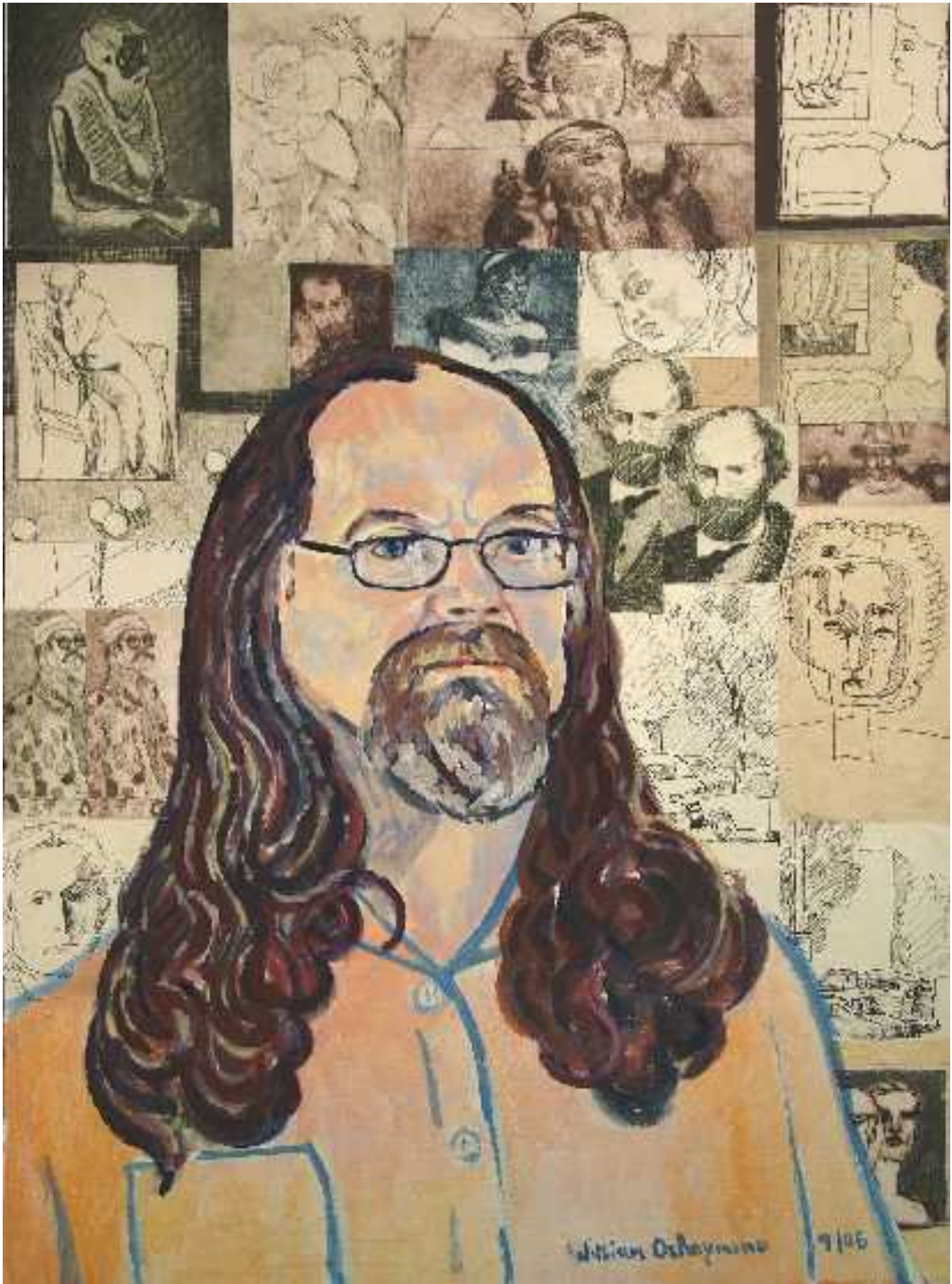
Color exists everywhere throughout the manifest cosmos. Nowhere can you look, where you will not find color. **Color and form are one.** Color is a fundamental force and principle of cosmos. Every possible tone has a specific vibration which can be received by the human nervous system in the same way we listen to a musical tone with our ears. In painting it is the eye which receives the tone. The painter's palette is a very sophisticated instrument, limited only by the artist's consciousness. Color makes up the painter's alphabet, and the combinations of tones which create visual chords and rhythms within a given composition are the sentences and paragraphs of this visual language. It is your nervous system, your eyes which receives and makes sense of this language. Color is God.



## BRUSH IS GOD

Artforms create and are the creation of archetypal reality. The brush is an archetypal reality. The world is a symbol of archetypal reality. Mother, father, sister, brother, teacher and student, are all examples of archetypes within human culture. A Vessel is archetypal in that it symbolizes that which contains. These are universal principles. The artist is also an archetypal reality. Wherever evolution achieves the human consciousness the artist will manifest.

In the act of painting, there is a language created which is archetypal. A language universal and eternal. It is made up of all the forces that go into the work. The personality of the brush is a most basic ingredient to being able to express this language. Let the brush have its say. It is something like the vocal chords through which sound is expressed. Every medium has a personality which desires expression. So, 'brush' is used loosely here to mean the instrument of creativity. It could be a pen, crayon, charcoal, etching needle, etc. It is important to understand and be sensitive to the nature of the tool you use, because within the personality of the instrument is found an integral ingredient in the expression of an inherently mystical language. This is a key to the deepening of the practice, and thus, the deepening of your bliss. Brush is God.



## MOTIF IS GOD

Motif means to move- meaning that which moves the artist. The artist must see the motif in terms of her/his art- color, composition, and brush. As the artist's concentration and vision expand into the motif (eye, mind, and heart journeying together) She/he realizes an infinity of relationships in the 'simplest' of objects. In this seeing of things as they are sits the greatest gift of the artist, as she/he begins to note the absolute nature of the everchanging world.

'The abstract nature of reality is the source of beauty'.

William DeRaymond

In painting there are 3 major motifs. The landscape, the portrait, and the still life. All painting embodies one or more of these themes. It is the abstract values of these archetypal realities that are the source of the paintings beauty. It is the real beauty of color and brush which create the 'abstract values' which make up the 'representational image'. A Painting is more than muzak for your walls. A painting is a doorway into psychological/spiritual space. It is an expression of transcendent form which opens out into the infinite. A Still life painting can express the width and breadth of cosmos; can take you from here to there. Motif is God.



## ARTIST IS GOD

'I transcend my subject'-Antonio Salemme

The artist conscious of the archetypal power of color and brush, and recognizing a divine order inherent in cosmos, must also recognize s/he is the conductor and organizer of these forces, no small part of which is the artist's personality. The artist takes joy in the medium; the brush, color and motif. The artist doesn't create the color, but does create the values and relationship of the tones and color harmonies. The artist is not the brush, but s/he uses the brush to create the textures and the rythms that express both the world and the inherent surreal values of the art form itself. All this the artist does according to her /his personality and intelligence, and reflects her/his absorbtion in the craft. Artist is God.





## YOU ARE GOD

Simplicity demands our deepest attention in order to be appreciated. Connoisseurship is receiving the vibrations of a work without preconceived ideas and judgements; allowing the judgement to arise out of that receptivity. As simple as this is, it is just as difficult. Forget all you've been taught to see, and begin to see beauty with your own eyes and nervous system. You are God.

## ART IS GOD

There is this language that is art, that embodies the highest expression in the world of form. The artist's practice involves creating expression that represents this archetypal reality, and thus create ecstasy within her/himself and the connoisseur. The medium, the brush, the color, the artist's temperament, the motif all need to be in harmony for there to be the mature work that reveals art as consciousness. Art is God.



I have been practicing Art since 1982. I had the great, good fortune to have as my friends, Antonio Salemme (1892-1995), my Art Master, and his wife Martha. I first wrote this manifesto sometime around 1984. If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to respond. In Service, William DeRaymond

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