

Absolutely Painting

The Dosojin Series

**William
MacKendree**

The Magnetic Field of the Brush

As I consider these paintings which were done over the past three years, they strike me like the journal of a road trip, in which the road is painting itself. They are the melding of the gestural resonances with the states of feeling arising out of the image.

I experience painting as a way of connecting to nature, history and culture and of sounding my personal relationship to the motifs I am pursuing. The way forward into an as-yet undefined present and future, also stretches backward pulling on earlier sensations and memories.

Surface and gesture are inseparable components of the painting that impart a palpable texture to the visual idea. The image is conjured up from the inside of itself, and built out of the opposing forces within its framework. How the picture is made, how the artist moved inside of it, is the vital part of the narrative embodied within it. The search for the structure and organization of this surface is guided by the aim to reveal its suggestive properties relating to shared human experiences and consciousness.

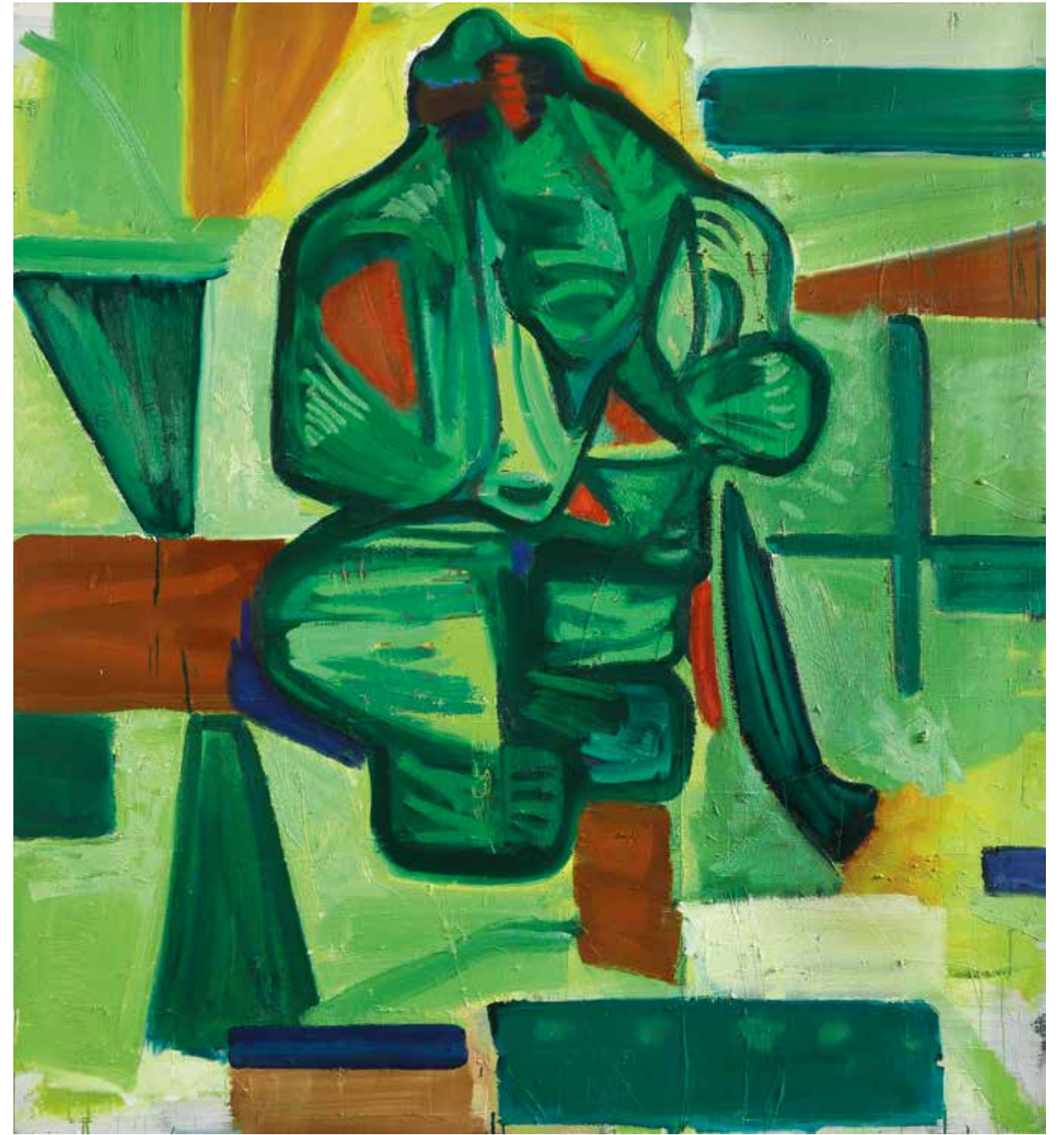
There is sometimes an «unfinished» or «work-in-progress» aspect which must remain. This quality of the search is vital to allow for the image to be open enough, less easily defined, so that it may have the power to reconstruct itself in the perception of the viewer.

The direction these images have taken is based on my interest in fundamental forms, what some may call archetypes. Their essential nature is to communicate non-verbally, generating a direct connection to both personal and collective memory. In the case of these latest works, they are suggested by archaic masks and statuary, inspired by lifelong study and visits to sites of Chinese, Japanese, Hindu and Greek Art.

To come back to the idea of these works as a journey, they feel somewhat like the Shinto shrines, and their «Dosojin» deities which are placed at significant route junctures. There is a book that I often go to: Basho's «The Narrow Road to the Deep North». Its spare words strike like stones on a lake surface, stirring up waves of memories and corporal sensations which become ideas, then images.

My desire is that the painting allows for a state of suspension, outside of a descriptive reading, that may invite the viewer into an intuitive connection to the process and origins of the image.















William MacKendree

born 1948 in Augusta, Georgia USA
lives and works in Paris

Institutional Exhibitions

Individual Exhibitions

Médiathèque François Mitterrand, Le Relecq-Kerhuon, France 2017
Combes Gallery, American University in Paris 2016
Centre Culturel Les Quinconces, Le Mans, France 2015
Centre Culturel Le Quartz, Brest, France 2005
Centre d'Art Contemporain, Saint Fons, France 1993
Centre Régional d'Art Contemporain Midi-Pyrénées, Toulouse, France 1990

Collective Exhibitions

«Le Paysage Industriel» Centre d'Art Contemporain, Châtelleraut, France 2018
«Encore Sous Pression» Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image Imprimée, La Louvière, Belgium 2017
«Ressources Humaines», Centre d'Art Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, France 2012
«Louyétu» Maison des Arts Georges Pompidou, Cajarc, France 2012
«Domino» Chapelle Sainte Catherine, Auvillar, France 2012
«Brest et les Peintres» Musée des Beaux Arts, Brest, France 2008
«Jeux de Genres» Espace Electra, Paris, France 1999
«Les Artistes Américains en France» Fondation Mona Bismarck, Paris, France 1997
«Aquisitions» Direction des Affaires Culturelles, Paris, France 1992
«25 Ans de la Cité des Arts» Hôtel de Ville, Paris, France 1991
«Une Autre Collection pour le Musée» Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France 1984
«Anniottanta» Museo Comunale d'Arte Moderna, Bologna, Italy

Institutional Collections, Awards and Grants

Le Centre Pompidou, Paris
La Grande Arche de la Défense, Paris
Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Ministère de la Culture, France
La Ville de Paris, Fonds Municipal d'Art Contemporain
Neue Galerie der Stadt, Linz
Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Toulouse
Transports Urbains de Reims
Leepa-Rattner Museum, Tarpon Springs, FL
AXA Assurances, Paris
Théâtre de Caen, Centre Culturel; Caen
Musée de l'Assistance Publique, Paris
Centre Culturel d'Annecy
Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain du Limousin
Banco de España, Madrid
Crédit Lyonnais, Brest
Médiathèque de Valence
Artothèque Municipale, Montpellier
Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
Bibliothèque Municipale, Cagnes-sur-mer
Chambre de Commerce, Brest
Théâtre de l'Espal, Centre Culturel, Le Mans
Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation, New York; Artist's Grant 2016
Mural Installations, Verlingue Courtiers en Assurance, Quimper; 2006-'08
City Wall Mural, Paris - commissioned by the City of Paris; 2000
Mural Installation at Headquarters of the Transports Urbains de Reims; 1998
Artist's Grant, Pollock-Krasner Foundation, New York; 1996
Prix de Peinture, Salon International de Montrouge; 1985

Publications

'William MacKendree Vinyl Vocabulary' ~ published by Hirmer Verlag, Munich 2012
texts by Alain Mousseigne, Laurie Hurwitz
'Icelandblack' ~ Artist's Book, Michael Woolworth Publications Paris 2009
'Météores' ~ Artist's Book, Michael Woolworth Publications Paris 1989
with poems by Demosthènes Davvetas
'William MacKendree' ~ Centre Régional d'Art Contemporain, Toulouse 1990
text by Demosthènes Davvetas
'William MacKendree' ~ Centre d'Arts Plastiques, Saint-Fons 1993

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