



FUSED GLASS AND ABSTRACT PAINTINGS HIGHLIGHT OPENING SEASON AT THE WHITE

The Works of Ben Georgia and Martin Kremer Bring New Dimension to Art in Lakeville

"Ben Georgia and Martin Kremer at The White," a unique collection of abstract paintings by Ben Georgia, and glass art by Martin Kremer. The summer season opened at *The White Gallery* in Lakeville, CT on May 22nd with an opening artists' reception on Saturday, May 23rd from 4-7 pm. The show ran through June 28th

"We're so excited about this opening show," said Tino Galluzzo, owner of The White Gallery with his wife Susan. "Ben Georgia and Martin Kremer are both artists that we discovered by chance, but the moment we saw their work we just loved it and knew we had to show it at our gallery."

Ben Georgia:

"For me, painting is magic, a revelation, in the process of what arrives on the blank surface of the canvas through the distillation of color and the physical act of painting," said Ben Georgia. "It translates the experience of place, time and emotion, remembered and actual, the process of painting, the energy and agony of the creative act."

With a deep understanding of abstract art, Georgia's observation of nature and man-made objects evolve in his painting from reality to expressive color-relationships and non-objective forms. He liberates color from its traditional descriptive role and focuses more on the psychological meaning in the color by creating art that expresses an emotional and subjective experience through the simple visual sensation of painterly brushwork and hues.

"Susan (Galluzzo) discovered Ben's work at a gallery while we were on vacation, and we both reacted to the forms, the shapes and the colors that he uses," said Tino Galluzzo. "We contacted Ben and subsequently he and his wife, Hilary, visited us at the gallery. After some discussion, we all decided that we fit well together."

Georgia was born close to the waterfront in the multiethnic, urban, industrial Jersey City, NJ, in 1941, and got a B.A. from Rutgers University in 1965, and a M.A. in 1977. He studied painting and art history at New York University and Columbia University, where he worked under Theodore Stamos, friend and colleague of Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, Baziotos and the others who made up the New York School of the Abstract Expressionists. He followed Stamos to the Art Students' League of New York.

Today, Georgia maintains a studio in New Jersey and Florida. He has exhibited in many galleries in the US and eastern Canada. His paintings are in numerous private and corporate collections such as Pfizer, Ricoh, Castrol and Shering-Plough.

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Martin Kremer:

"Glass has been a medium of expression for me for more than 30 years," said award winning artist Martin Kremer. "I began as a stained glass enthusiast, but glass art gradually took over, evolving from a hobby to a full-time obsession."

Kremer works in kilnformed or fused glass and creates vessels and sculpture inspired by various sources, including Japanese architecture, sculptor Richard Serra, and glass maestro Lino Tagliapietra. His glass sculptures combine his interest in patterns, opacity and transparency, with balance and architectural tension.

Fusing or kilnforming is an ancient technique that is currently undergoing a revival. Kremer's current series of fused and slumped plates and bowls is relatively new, resulting from a sabbatical from stained glass about three years ago. In fusing the piece is set-up cold, using a variety of techniques in common with traditional stained glass and mosaics. Firing in an electric kiln follows at temperatures of 1800 degrees. As many as four firings may be necessary to achieve the desired appearance and form. Grinding, sandblasting and polishing finish the piece.

"His works vary in size from desktop scale to large conceptual pieces that are exquisite," said Tino Galluzzo. "We received a piece recently as a gift and just fell in love with it. We knew we had to show his work at the gallery, so we immediately contacted him."

Kremer's blown glass with several Hudson Valley, NY studios, and at workshops at Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina and at Urbanglass in Brooklyn, NY, where he will be teaching this summer. His work is featured in a new manual for glass fusers, "Contemporary Warm Glass," and has been included in several invitational exhibitions at selected galleries.

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