

ART CHAUCER

Chaucer Silverson

I think it is absolutely critical in these times to be able to think abstractly. Two years ago I travelled to Basel, Switzerland to participate in the phenomena of Art Basel with the intention of finding out if abstract painting is still a viable, meaningful art form. I discovered an even more vibrant conversation between collectors, artists, galleries and many other stakeholders in the world of art than I knew existed. In this conversation art is a legitimate artistic response to the human condition.

Not only is painting still a viable response to contemporary times, it is even more important than it has been in the past when its purpose was to record, tell a story or be an object of beauty, entertainment, or instruction. So much of what we experience in the digital age is a spectacle, a passing narrative, in a world of disparate elements.

Painting is important as a genre *because* it is a singular experience. In abstract expressionism removing the subject matter allows you to interact with the color, patterns as well as the intention of the artist. My painting is about this act of slowing down to view the moment. It evokes a state of mind with color, pattern and light. The moment of interaction with the painting *is* the content. My art is experiential and philosophically it is the interaction of the viewer during the process of viewing it, not the content in terms of representational subject matter that is important.

Great art should hold your attention as you return again and again to the piece to see what is there. If it continues to please, intrigue, or suggests a state of being, it is important.

Chaucer Silverson

2012