

Autograph (2015) – Stewart MacFarlane

Bound to earth yet seeking a world beyond, Stewart MacFarlane's work powerfully employs the gift of sight then invites the other four senses to indulge in the narrative experience.

The common threads of intrigue and movement tie each of the works in 'Autograph' together. They are a reflection of MacFarlane's own career as an itinerant artist. In conversation with him, he often wonders as to the hidden meaning of things, what might happen next and how to interpret the past.

These same questions are clearly evident in his paintings. They showcase 'snapshots' from a life that is never static, but ever enslaved to the calendar of time, seasons, relationships, events and human movement across this planet we call earth.

The paintings 'The Terrestrials' and 'New Years Day' seem to ask more questions than provide answers. They compel the viewer to decide who is the protagonist and who is the antagonist. Is the artist a secondary character, or does he in fact play the central role? This conundrum is further intensified in the 'The Foreigners' and 'Remote', where the beguiled viewer must again decide between agony and ecstasy, but never neutrality.

Juxtaposed to this under-current of tension is the joy-filled image of 'Spring', which shows youthful abandonment, amongst an explosion of color, which is nature's gift.

This new exhibition at Wei-Ling Gallery presents a masterful selection of recent 'autographs' that represent an ever-progressive frontier, the visual mind of Stewart MacFarlane.

Roderick C. Glen

Artist

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