Jan Hoffmann

ASM1 Series

 7/2023

WHERE THEY LEAD

Artist Statement

I paint in silence. I am easily distracted… by noise, by people, by criticism, by other people’s voices. Within the silence of my studio, I listen to my own personal voice. I always knew that COLOR was an important part of my voice. (My most treasured childhood gift was my box of 64 crayons!) In the quietude, a childhood memory flooded back and lead to another discovery…I LOVE LINES! On car trips, my mother would make squiggles on paper and have me “do something” with them. This series “Where They Lead” is about lines and color. Color and lines guided this series and celebrates my fascination with these elements.

My lines/ marks stand boldly on my canvas. I use linework to emote feelings…ragged, gentle, hidden, connected, interrupted, angry, frustrated. Sometimes I obscure them enough to make me think “I wonder where they went.” My linework uses repetition with variation. The lines will vary in thickness, direction, sometimes look like strips, sometimes meandering and going off the canvas, only to return some place else. Lines will sometimes be crisp edges, others blurred or veiled. I have included my cards in this series. They are whimsical, sometimes with a hint of color. These are exploring the variations of lines and the emotions they can evoke.

The colors in this series are predominately midtone blues and greens. Dark and light values are used in lesser amounts. I have experimented with blending several colors, creating more complex palettes. My neutral colors are usually a result of the blended colors added to white, black, grey or titan buff. Mixing these neutrals harmonizes the palette and helps create contrasting values. These value contrasts and line work direct the eye around the canvas to the places that excite me. Color and values are also used to augment or subdue emotions. In the Explore stage, I enjoy the process of simplification. Simplifying shapes and lines creates resting, quiet places (often with blended neutrals). Layers are created by paint and collage papers, allowing for physical, as well as visual texture. Often in the Clarifying stage I will add glazing to add more harmony or to adjust values.

For me, a “successful” painting is one that captures one’s attention enough to want to look closer, to explore the hidden treasures. To ask “Where They s Lead”