

IAN BUSER

Toronto, ON

ARTIST STATEMENT

'Abstract art has helped us to experience the emotional power inherent in pure form.'

- Anton Ehrenzweig

A search for the definition of 'Euonia' yields several results, all with the core reference of well-being. Whether it's a feeling of goodwill, amicable interactions, and helpfulness between a speaker and an audience; balanced mental health; or its Greek translation meaning "beautiful thinking", the term 'Eunoia' is the message behind Ian Buser's latest body of abstract paintings. Buser's hard-edge abstractions combine inspirations from his youth including abstract expressionism and colour block study. Through mindful combinations of colour, geometric forms, and representational imagery Buser creates emotive spaces filled with tension, drama, weight and movement. In the uncertainty felt globally in 2020, Buser's forms convey the necessity for compassion and community connection.

"Abstract painting is a difficult thing to explain because it works on two levels: emotionally and formally.

When I say emotionally what I mean is that because both imagery and materiality are not working in service of the representational, viewers tend to connect emotionally to the work through associations of colour, form and composition. These associations can lead in many directions. Some individuals are drawn to abstract works because the piece makes them feel tranquil. Others embrace works which push them out of their comfort zone into feelings of disquiet or imbalance. People may say 'It speaks to me' or 'I am drawn to it'.

When I say formally, what I mean is that abstraction is founded on concerns of composition, colour study, form, and rhythm; core concepts that are equally present in representational painting. Though void of representation (or pushing its boundaries), abstract art brings raw energy into a space through relationships between forms. For instance; the push and pull of colour contrasts or the subtle interruptions of shapes that allow two-dimensional planes to overlap in suggestions of illusionary space.

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'Abstract artists tell their stories with shapes, color, edges, movement, and value - just like when one is painting a beautiful scene. The difference is, of course, there is no scene. The scene is within the artist. I often get asked, 'How do you know when you are done?' I am done when the story is told.'

- Gwen Fox

I like to say that abstract paintings answer a question that no one asked. The viewer is left to ponder what that question might have been. My intention is never to dictate viewer's reception of the work, but to allow their emotional reading to bring forth their own internal questioning.

I hope you enjoy them and feel moved in some way. I hope they inspire some 'beautiful thinking' of your own."

- Ian Busher

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CV

EDUCATION

1992-93 Foundation Studies, OCAD

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2020 *New Works* (forthcoming), co-solo alongside Eryn O'Neill, Wall Space Gallery, Ottawa, ON
2013 *Solo Exhibition*. Communication Gallery, Toronto, ON
2010 *Solo Exhibition*. Communication Gallery, Toronto, ON

JURIED EXHIBITIONS

2019 *Toronto Outdoor Art Fair*. Toronto, ON
2019 *Riverdale ArtWalk*. Toronto, ON
2018 *Toronto Outdoor Art Fair*. Toronto, ON
2018 *Riverdale ArtWalk*. Toronto, ON
2017 *Riverdale ArtWalk*. Toronto, ON
2016 *Riverdale ArtWalk*. Toronto, ON
2016 *The Artist Project*. Toronto, ON
2015 *One of a Kind Show*. Toronto, ON
2015 *Queen West Art Crawl*. Toronto, ON
2015 *Riverdale ArtWalk*. Toronto, ON
2015 *Exhibition*. Navillus Gallery, Toronto, ON
2015 *The Artist Project*. Toronto, ON
2014 *Affordable Art Fair*. New York, NY
2014 *Love Art Fair*. Toronto, ON
2014 *The Artist Project*. Toronto, ON
2013 *The Artist Project*. Toronto, ON
2012 *Queen West Art Crawl*. Toronto, ON
2012 *Square Foot Show*. AWOL Gallery, Toronto, ON
2012 *Toronto Outdoor Art Fair*. Toronto, ON
2012 *Contact Festival*. Studio Vogue Gallery. Toronto, ON
2012 *The Artist Project*. Toronto, ON

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2011 *Retrospective Show. Communication Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2011 *50//50 Show. Queen Gallery, Toronto, ON*
2011 *Toronto Art Expo. Toronto, ON*
2010 *Exhibition. Sunrise Gallery, Hamilton, ON*
2010 *50/50 Show. Toronto, ON*
2010 *Queen West Art Crawl. Toronto, ON*
2010 *Contact Festival: Beaux-Arts. Brampton, ON*

AWARDS

2015 VIP Award, The Artist Project
2014 VIP Award, The Artist Project
2010 Best Photography In Show, 50/50 Show, Queen Gallery

FUNDRAISING DONATIONS

2019 Peggy Baker Dance Projects Benefit Art Auction, Toronto, ON
2019 Teddy Bear Affair Gala, Children's Aid Foundation
2019 Waterkeeper Gala, Toronto, ON
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2016 Waterkeeper Gala, Toronto, ON
2015 Teddy Bear Affair Gala, Children's Aid Foundation
2014 Buy Art Not Kids Auction, Toronto, ON
2010 Second Harvest, Toronto, ON

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