

B. Blanchette

Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

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Reference Point:

You may remember the work on the right from my March, 2011 newsletter. As you can see from the picture below, it has gone through some transitions. When I was working on this collage earlier in the year I was experimenting with cut corrugated cardboard shapes adhered to a panel background. Although I was relatively happy with the process, I became less and less elated with the technical appearance of the painted shapes. As you can imagine, corrugations leave lots of open spaces on the edges of the cut shapes, which proved difficult to integrate into the overall painterliness of the work.

I decided, therefore, to paint out everything up to this point using a material generally not found in every artist's paintbox.

I ordered a dozen tubes of black latex caulking from the local building supply store and applied it in its thick natural state, with a 1/2" bristle paintbrush, to the entire 6' X 6' artwork. It took some days to accomplish, but I was able to fill the open edges of the cardboard and prepare the collage for the following coats of Acrylic paint.

The gridlines which I had added with string as a guide to the paint pattern, were also integrated permanently into the collage, while the caulking provided a consistent and painterly texture to the result.

The collage is still not complete. In the last stage I will use glazes, and/or scumbled color, to modify the surface and attempt to nuance the final color experience.

Recently, I attended a private tutored seminar to enhance my digital camera skills in preparation for a late September trip to the Southwest National Parks... thanks to my sister-in-law, Linda DiPrete, who won the trip for two.

We expect to make it a photo opportunity, that will inspire us both!

