

Blanchette

Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

Vol. II No. 11 Nov., 2012

On Turning Seventy...

Chronologically, I'll be 70 this week... and I'm less concerned with the number itself than what it tends to bring with it. I already know that my knees like to keep calling my attention to how they feel, and my hearing loss, just diagnosed after years of using noisy power tools, is the cause of constant battles for the TV volume control between my wife and I. I also know that without my computer glasses, my reading glasses, and my regular bifocals I would be struggling to read the fine print everywhere! But otherwise I feel pretty damn good, so trying to forestall the inevitabilities of a life's last decades is a big waste of time. The only answer to another passing year, or another birthday, is to keep doing what you have a passion for. If you don't mind, I'd like to keep you on my email list for years to come.

Collaborations:

I have been fascinated before with the printed image and have come to realize that some of the artistic heroes from my youth and mid-life years still remain in the background of my mind as influences that spur me to new awakenings. Artists like Franz Kline, David Smith, Eva Hesse, Robert Rauschenberg, Larry Rivers, George Sugarman, Abe Ajay, Martin Puryear, Jasper Johns, John Baldessari, Cy Twombly, Louise Nevelson, Richard Diebenkorn, and Helen Frankenthaler are some that I continue to look back to. I have such a connection to their work for one reason or another that I have decided to continue with some new collages, like some I have done before. I am now at work on a series of "unlikely collaborations", whereby I combine, slice, juxtapose, and reconfigure printed representations of two or three artist's works to form a new work. I challenge myself to help their artwork find common ground, hopefully in some extraordinary way, inspired by what I find available on my bookshelves.



Above: Corner of upstairs studio, spread out with page images culled from my 30 year collection of art magazines and catalogs.

Below: Leaning over my light table, x-acto knife in hand... collaborative collage in progress behind me on drafting table.

