

Blanchette

Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

Vol. II No. 7

To work or not to work...

One of the problems with retirement for me, has been the lack of structure that my life always had as an employee. Now that my boss is me, I can either be a "cruel taskmaster" or an "insubordinate worker". I can be very hard to manage! So, recognizing that taking time off is good for the soul helps me to alleviate the feelings that my boss is an SOB..., or that I am a lazy bum!

Summer is a difficult time to buckle down and get things done around the house or the studio; so many distractions vie for your attention. Summer is a seductive season. I know that there are artists who can closet themselves in their studios for sixteen hours a day and be perfectly happy, but I am not one of them. The allure of the beautiful weather and the actual unfiltered sunlight encourages all kinds of benefits to my life. It is a great time to enjoy the outdoors and is also a compelling reward for just being alive! That is not to say I'm going to lie on the beach and bake myself to a nice golden brown... but taking walks with Karen, bike rides with my friend Peter, or my brother Tim are pleasurable and regenerative times for me. An artist needs breaks, just as any other working person needs an occasional vacation. In the end, the benefits outweigh the lack of production that occurs, for as compulsive as some artists are, these respites free us from a lockstep kind of thinking and can relax the mind, opening it to new ideas or creative directions.

So, for now I have decided to work a more relaxed schedule, which is kind of a vacation, and I can do what I want without guilt. I can plan some gallery or museum trips, attend some movies or concerts that I might not normally do, and just be with friends or family.

The two works shown here are nearing completion. Finishing them may take hours or days, but I am anxious to move on with other projects that I am looking ahead to. Some of the problems these register with me are conceptual while others are process oriented. Each will be resolved with the help of a fresh look after some down time.

Perhaps you'd like to comment.



Glacial Overview #002, 36" X 42" (Unfinished carved and painted relief in process, 2012)



Meltdown, 36" X 48" (Unfinished carved and painted relief in process, 2012)