

# Blanchette

## Bruce's Studio News

Process • Concept • Evolution • Solution

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### Three years later... the ice returns...

It was June, 2011 when I gave you a glimpse of this work in process. Now almost exactly three years later the piece that I call "Ice Out" is nearly finished. It's interesting to see how original concepts can change as time goes on... how you can not really be sure that your work is complete. This is not uncommon among most artists, however. Many find that some works have to be "lived with" for a while in order for initial subjective feelings to assert their true worth. Clearly, art is subject to each artist's personality as well as process. So it is with this large relief.

Constructed on three panels, it never felt "right" to me as an exercise in black and white. Certainly, not as unmodulated and flat as its original painted surface was. I was conflicted in my mind's eye between the literal subject matter and the abstract quality of the broken shards of "ice" that formed its composition. I had completed another work earlier, in which I contrasted surfaces that were flat with very glossy ones, and within the past year I decided to rework this larger relief using clear epoxy over its newly articulated surface, which I had repainted with color using a hard rubber brayer and brushes.

Decidedly, the epoxy coating will provide another benefit; protection from the elements when I display "Ice Out" permanently outside my studio on the north wall.



ICE OUT (Connecticut River) January, 2012



Above I am seen surrounded by the three panels that I have just finished coating with Epoxy resin. The close-ups show the quality of reflection that is generated by the high gloss and weather resistant surface. You can also see the color changes and subtle mottling of the surface under the resin.

Resins are not my favorite media to use in the studio, because they require gloves, eye protection and a respirator mask for safety. I also have to run an exhaust fan throughout the process and during the curing time afterward.

