

mark haberle

art statement

about 'deleted scenes'

The collection of work that is going on today, yesterday, and tomorrow, is centered around my hidden past and suppressed emotions while living in a house where there was alcohol abuse. It will not continue to remain silent. For quite some time I painted these odd combinations of objects I just grabbed and set out for a still-life, while tolerating the judgments of the ones who could never understand. As far as I was concerned I was just setting up objects that looked fun to paint, but there was a much deeper presence at work. Today I am remembering and uncovering, and I am letting my art do the talking. I am aware of what the body of work is about, but not the individual piece. I am painting what I did not want to face as a child, what I hid, what I ignored, and without knowing, what I denied.

One can only ignore these things for a period of time before the whole of life no longer makes sense, and I believe that is when this voyage or journey initially began, but to me I was just 'still painting'. The body of work is called 'deleted scenes' because I am putting into pictures the very things I deleted almost my entire life. To the viewer, the images are negative; they are confusing, as was life in the house with the alcoholic. The anger, the doubt, the pain and abuse, the inconsistency and mind games he played are seen in color on canvas.

The one's who have walked where I have understand the art instantly. They see the work not knowing the artist or having seen the work before and they connect, and that is when I feel I have been successful. That is when I feel I have done what God has given me this gift to do. Saying this, I have referred to this side of my painting as art therapy.

About.... the Landscape Paintings

The landscape paintings are done Plein air, painted on site in open air. The vast majority of this work is done in the pure areas of upper Michigan near Alpha and Crystal Falls, and in Door County Wisconsin. This side of the art is not so complicated and the areas where I paint are where I go for peace and serenity and contact with God. It is in these areas where I feel closest to God and can submerge myself in his creation. I will move away from the dark past and catch that moment in time capturing its beauty and solitude before man moves in or the negative thoughts return. This art is the flip side to the still-life work and is my way of saying how pure life is. Here all is calm.

This statement is not a story of pity or sorrow, it is one of success, it is one of victory. It is a story of becoming. With the successful bounce between these two sides of my art and the relationship and balance they provide, and with the help from God, I will.