



AMERICAN

art

COLLECTOR



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JEFF BYE

Outside in

Odd spaces resonate with expressionist painter Jeff Bye. As a former scenic artist in New York working on stage and movie sets, Bye had the unique opportunity to explore unusual places such as the Brooklyn Navy Yard. In the artist's previous show at Greenhut Galleries, he explored building exteriors and facades across New York City. For Bye's third solo show at the Portland, Maine-based gallery his paintings focus mostly on the interiors of these places, some of which are abandoned, others occupied.

"These paintings illustrate the deterioration over time to these spaces. Something about these historic buildings and architecture has captivated my interest," Bye comments.

Fodder for this body of work comes from Bye's travels throughout New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, where he now resides. Once something catches the artist's eye he will do watercolor sketches to get ideas for larger works in acrylic. Bye gravitates toward subjects that exude character, often undergoing various stages of transformation. He then uses palette knife and brush to apply abstract marks, washes and drips to express how light affects structures at different times of day.

"There is a beautiful push-pull dynamic throughout the paintings," the artist states. "I like to have that variety throughout the pieces...I like that sketchiness...Everything is not so defined and you can see the process in the painting."

Bye's work is characterized by depth of colors and visual textures as well as a sense of drama in these indoor spaces. New pieces such as *Moss* have a moody presence that grabs the viewer's attention and makes one want to explore the rest of the image.

"Not many people paint abandoned interiors, so there's an immediate reaction to these areas," Bye adds.

Among his narrative paintings on display is *Greenpoint (A Five Story Walkup)*, featuring three Polish women in a corridor. Though the chatting ladies aren't prominent, they speak to Bye's passion for the human figure, an interest awakened while he studied at the



1



2



3

“We have two of Jeff’s works...We enjoy his unique ability to find an unusual twist to everyday subjects...The dramatic motion and vivid colors in his pieces draw you in.” – Meg and Jim Smith, collectors



4

Rhode Island School of Design and later at New York Academy of Art.

Through his paintings Bye hopes to preserve historic structures and architecture before they are converted into something sterile and absent of individuality.

“These ugly beautiful places—laundry mats, municipal buildings and factories—are gorgeous in terms of color...texture...worn with a beautiful patina,” Bye says. “These spaces have a stillness that is most deafening when entering, but have an unbelievable beauty remaining in the mostly abandoned interiors. They reveal a portal to the past.” ●

1
Thrift, acrylic, 25 x 30"

2
Greenpoint (A Five Story Walkup), acrylic, 40 x 48"

3
South Bronx, acrylic, 20 x 28"

4
Moss, acrylic, 26 x 44"