

about the artist - Bruno Tanonis

I would like to dedicate this exhibition of paintings to George R. Logan, aka “The Silver Fox”. Coach Logan is a legend in soccer in San Diego, and passed away earlier this year.

“Everything is just too commercial, like a sprawling octopus, too much part of the system. Sometimes you feel like you’re walking around in that movie, Invasion Of The Body Snatchers and you wonder if it’s got you yet, if you’re still one of the few or are you ‘them’ now. You never know do you? When people don’t get threatened and challenged, I mean in some kind of way, they don’t get confronted, never have to make decisions, they never take a stand, they never grow, live their lives in a fish tank, stay in the same old scene forever, die and never get a break or a chance to say goodbye. I have views contrary to all that. I think that this world is just a passing through place and that the dead have eyes and that even the unborn can see and I don’t care who knows it.”

-Bob Dylan

It amazes me how as I grow older, and think of everything I’ve accomplished in my life, I can’t help but dwell on my childhood. I think of myself as a “big kid” all the time. My childhood was spent here in San Diego. The Padres’ uniforms were brown and gold then. The Zoo and Balboa Park were my sanctuary, a place my Babcia and Dziadzio would take my sister and me with regularity. My parents’ home in La Mesa, designed by my Granddad and Grandma, and built by my Granddad and father, was my little kingdom for escape and creativity. I realize now how lucky I was to be surrounded by so much family and support as I turned into a young man.

My art is a reflection of my experiences. I love color and have been influenced by the San Diego and Baja, California landscape. I love the process of painting. The surface is like that of a palimpsest, something reused or altered but still bearing visible traces of its earlier form. I have been called a “scribbler” like Jean Michel Basquiat, or Cy Twombly. In my art making process, texture is a key element.

Interpersonal and psychological relationships are conveyed to the viewer in my paintings in an ambiguous and unfamiliar way. I am obsessed by the figure and it’s relationship in my compositions. The figure evokes empathy. I like to create imagery that is abstract and dreamlike. Through academia, I have been told that I am a figurative painter, but I believe my work resonates somewhere between abstraction and figuration.

When I paint, that little kid in me is always tugging on my sleeve. He shows no fear; his eyes are wide open. As a big kid, it is “I experience, therefore I am”. The theory and skills I have developed in academia collide with my childhood to create my factured works.

Bruno Tanonis received his B.A. in Art (emphasis sculpture) at San Diego State University in 1992. He received his M.F.A in Painting/Drawing at the Pratt Institute in

Brooklyn, New York, in 2007. He currently is living in Sonoma County, California.