Small Worlds: Kawads, Mandalas & Portals
Lou Storey, Artist

Free Opening Reception:
Second Friday, February 8
6 – 8pm

Art can be like storytelling. To view a work of art is to enter into a different world. The works in Small Worlds offer the Lou Storey’s interpretation of three creative motifs taken from three distinct, ancient and beautiful cultural traditions: the Kawad, the Mandala, and the Portal. Each work tells a story that gives us a glimpse into the personal life and views of the artist while also reflecting a shared human experience of the things we fear, want, believe and love.

The Kawad of Hindu practice is a small, hand-sized, multi-doored shrine that is carried into remote areas of India to tell the stories of gods, local heroes and histories. The Mandala of Buddhism is a symbolic representation used to communicate an understanding of wholeness, generally depicted within a circle. Lastly, the Portal, of the Judeo-Christian triptych and diptych tradition, is a multi-paneled artwork with its origins in early narrative storytelling altar paintings.

Guided mostly by color and pattern as well as the pleasures of play and discovery, Lou Storey's paintings convey a loose narrative that evolves and solidifies intuitively while he is working on them.
The highly textured surfaces are built up in layers using forms that he creates and then casts in resin. These forms began with letters and numbers and progressed into various squiggles, spirals, and shapes - a personal iconography that has appeared in his paintings over a twenty-year period. He states, “Much like a writer keeping a personal journal, my art-making is an exploration of my day to day life that tracks the moments, from dark to light, of my own life journey.”

Storey’s acrylic paintings incorporate original hand-casted three-dimensional elements into a two-dimensional painting field. All of the dimensional cast resin elements are made in multiples from rubber molds of shapes and letters sculpted by the artist. The cast shapes are embedded into the surface of the paintings. Storey applies thick layers of acrylic and builds up the surface using a variety of mediums. He often scores and marks the surface and then pipes acrylic lines and shapes onto it using a pastry bag. While his surface technique and color palette remain constant over time, his ongoing exploration of topics relevant to his daily life offer an ever-changing and vibrant context for his art.

Lou Storey, a New Jersey artist, has exhibited his work locally and nationally for over 40 years. He is a Noyes Signature Artist and exhibits his work every year in the Noyes’ Signature Artists exhibitions. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Shore Institute of Contemporary Art, Islip Museum, Monmouth Museum and the Texas Artists Museum. His solo exhibitions include the AtlantiCare Gallery, Trinity Gallery, BACA Downtown and The Source Gallery. Storey holds a doctorate in psychotherapy.

For more information about Lou Storey visit: http://www.loustoreyart.com/Artworks

The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University // www.artsgarageac.com // (609) 626-3805
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