



Noyes
Museum of Art
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

THE NOYES
arts garage
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

Educational Guide

October 12, 2023 – January 26, 2024

Gary Erbe's Magical World

- **Opening Reception:**
October 19, 2023
5:00 – 7:00 PM

The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University presents a solo exhibition featuring the works of Gary Erbe. This collection of eye-catching oil-on-canvas and mixed media pieces, created by Erbe over the span of 40 years, will be exhibited at the Noyes Galleries at Kramer Hall in Hammonton from October 12, 2023 – January 26, 2024. An opening reception of this exhibition, free and open to the public, will be held on October 19, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.



"Spaghetti Western", 1974
Oil on Canvas, 39 x 49 inches

Erbe's work combines flat space forms that are exaggerated and enhanced by shadow, light and color, resulting in pure three-dimensional illusion. While there are and will always be elements of Trompe l'oeil in his work, he has less of an interest in fooling the eye in favor of stimulating the mind. Erbe states that "Over the years, I have explored the idiom of abstraction and cubism and how these modern principles can be integrated into Trompe l'oeil. I welcome the challenge of bridging the gap between modern art and realism without abandoning technique. I believe I have found ways of circumventing the so-called rules of Trompe l'oeil in favor of originality, inventiveness and creativity. Most of my work since 1970 is highly complex and can be engaged on many different levels. I have underscored the point that my work has less to do with the tenets of Trompe l'oeil and far more to do with the creative process of discovery."

Artist Biography

Gary Erbe, a self-taught painter was born in 1944 in Union City, New Jersey where he maintained his studio from 1972-2006. Unable to attend art school, he worked as an engraver to support himself and family, painting at nights and weekends to develop his skills. In 1967, Erbe discovered Trompe l'oeil painting and its masters, and later conceived a way of creating paintings that would be more contemporary and a departure from the 19th Century Trompe l'oeil masters. By freeing

objects from their natural surroundings via the illusion of levitation and through the juxtaposition of objects that in reality had no relationship, he could create thought provoking paintings. Erbe then coined the term “Levitational Realism”. In 1970, Erbe decided to pursue his art full time and began to actively exhibit his work.



“The Brown Bowtie”, 1998
23 x 32 inches, Oil on Canvas
Collection of Reading Public Museum, PA

Erbe has exhibited extensively since 1970 with solo exhibitions at Museums and galleries throughout America, Asia and Europe and is in the permanent collection of many institutions throughout the United States including The Phillips Collection, DC; Philadelphia Museum of Art, PA; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, PA; Terra Foundation for American Art, IL, ad more. Erbe has also garnered many awards and honors over the years including an unprecedented 6 Gold Medals at The Allied Artists of America, Inc. Annual Exhibitions held at The National Arts Club, NYC, the Medal for Lifetime Achievement in American Art from The Butler Institute of American Art, OH and the Salmagundi Club Medal of Honor, NYC, amongst

others.

Erbe was honored with a 25-year traveling retrospective in 1995 and a 40-year traveling retrospective in 2010. The Butler Institute of American Art, OH has published a scholarly written 300-page hard cover book on Erbe’s art and life titled “Footprints: The Art and Life of Gary Erbe” in conjunction with a 50 year retrospective exhibition in 2017 which travelled to 5 Museums. Currently, Erbe maintains his studio in Nutley, NJ, where he continues to actively paint.

To learn more about Gary Erbe and his work, visit: www.garyerbe.com

The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University · <http://www.noyesmuseum.org> · (609) 626-3420

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