

Wilderness House Literary Review 20/1

Robert Markey

ROBERT MARKEY is an artist who has worked in many media over the years including painting, sculpture, installation, video and mosaics. He has done public art projects in cities around the country including New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Houston and Minneapolis. His first video was aired on PBS, and he received national media coverage for his public performance work on domestic violence.

He started doing mosaic murals in Springfield when there was almost no public art there to inspire more public art. He has done mosaic murals with children in difficult situations: orphans in Sri Lanka, homeless in Cambodia and India, refugees in Greece, teenagers in Brazil, and girls in Afghanistan. He did mosaic murals with children at Mohawk Trail High School, with the reentry group from the Franklin County Jail, and with homeless veterans in Washington DC.

He has done painted murals with refugees in the U.S. and Greece, and with tribal painters in India.

His sculptures have been featured in various locations around the country, including The Norman Rockwell Museum and Chesterwood in Stockbridge MA, 3 Sisters Sanctuary in Goshen MA, and Sculpture Fest in Woodstock VT.

He does many portraits and in 2021 he was asked by an art gallery in NYC to do portraits of health care workers that died of Covid. He did two of these and then did a number of portraits for local people whose friends or family died of Covid. This was very much appreciated.

He has published a number of books. Some are books that friends wrote and he illustrated, and some he wrote and illustrated.

He also is a musician and has played guitar and sitar for many years.

Artist Statement

My work combines the visual and the conceptual. I want the visual statement to be profound, to be questioning and to be a source of inspiration and of beauty.

Conceptually, my work often speaks about hope, about humor and about the human condition: what it is and what it could be. Much of my earlier work was visually brutal, showing the suffering which one group of people cause to another. My later work pushes this brutality beneath the surface, showing more the beauty and hope which is possible.

Currently I am working in oil painting, sculpture and mosaic murals. In my paintings I work with layers of intense color creating a deep almost primeval feeling space. My sculptures are outdoor installations using steel, stone, glass, wood and mosaic. The sculptures often have a political or social motif.

I have a vision of a peaceful world, a world based on justice, compassion and human dignity. As an artist my work comes from that vision

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and from the understanding of how different that vision is from reality. I attempt in my work to impact on an emotional level, to evoke laughter, tears or anger. It is the purpose of art, I believe, to confront, to challenge, to force the viewer to see and think about the world in a new and more profound way. It is my hope that experiencing my work will be one of perhaps many events that will influence people to envision and work for a more humane and just world.

my website is robertmarkey.com



Lime and Tequila, oil on canvas, 12"x12"



Plums and Glass, oil on canvas, 12"x12"



Pomegranate, oil on canvas, 10"x16"



Tangerine and Butterfly,
oil on canvas, 16"x8"



Northern Mockingbird, oil on panel, 8"x8"



Starling on Gold Leaf, oil on panel, 5"x5"



Cave Swallow, oil on panel, 8"x8"



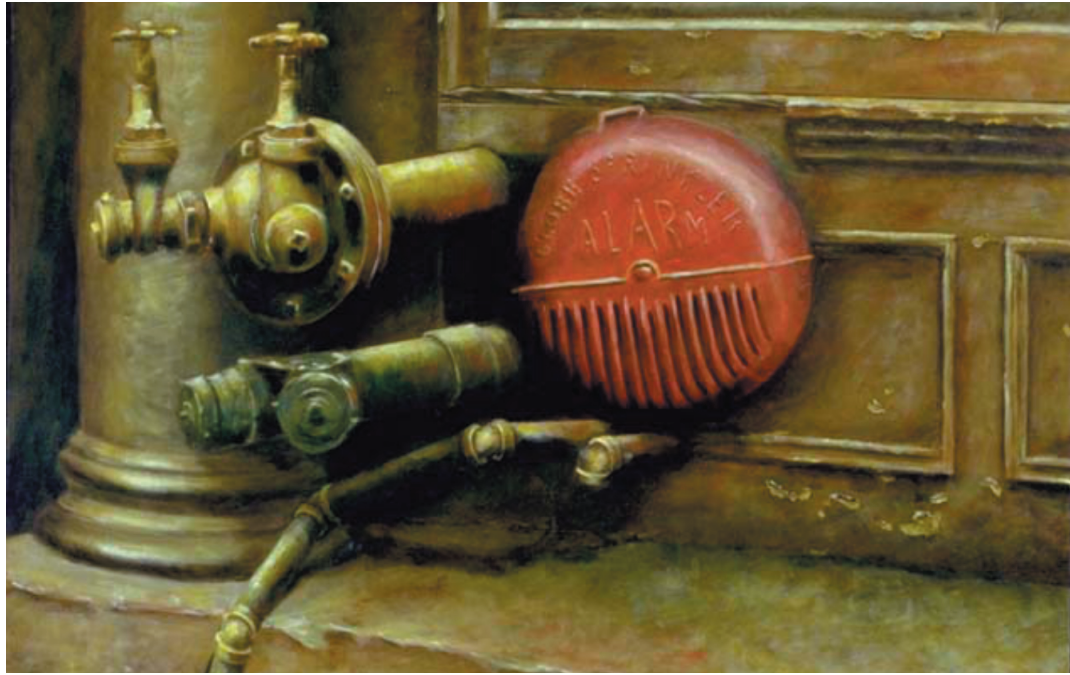
Bazilian Jabirus, oil on canvas, 18"x24"



Blue Door, oil on canvas, 24"x30"



Red Door, oil on canvas, 30"x24"



Fire Alarm, oil on canvas, 30"x24"



Gray Door, oil on canvas, 30"x24:



Jonas, oil on canvas, 22"x14"



Marie, oil on canvas, 14"x22"



Ben, oil on canvas, 22"x12"



Lynda, oil on canvas, 13"x12"



Floating World, steel, glass, gold leaf, 12'x10'x10'



Boston Cod Dreaming of the Carribean,
acrylic painted fiberglass sculpture, 4'x2'x2'



Amoozon Rain Forest, acrylic painted fiberglass sculpture, 4'x8'x2'



Grieving Mother, bronze, 20"x14"x12"



500 Years, welded steel, 90"x20"x24"



American Minotaur, welded steel,
80"x30"x24"



If I can't Dance, I don't Want Your Revolution, welded steel, 24"x30"x8"



Emergence, welded steel, ferrocement, mosaic with marble, smalti, and mirror, 4'x4'x4'