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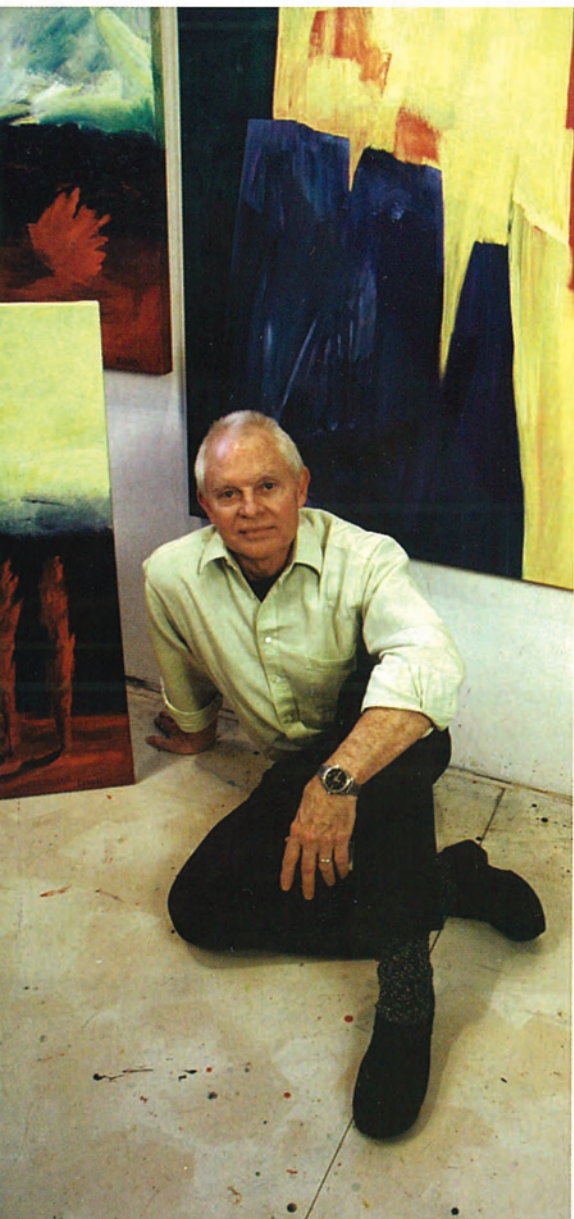
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April 2005



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Bill Koch's Palm Beach Treasures



Dick Evans takes a provocative, colorful approach to his environment.

Description of Work

"It's gorgeous stuff," says Evans, laughing, then explains: "I do abstract paintings, with lots of gesture and brushstroke and color, loosely based on landscape." Evans' expansive, moody, voluminous landscapes explore internal as well as external reality. The sky explodes with fire, fields may be green or orange, poplars are crimson and black forms stare back at the viewer without revealing their mysteries. In many paintings there is a splash of color or an empty space that seems to be a portal to another world.

Method of Work

Evans works intuitively; he makes no sketches. "Very seldom do I even know what I am going to paint when I start," he says. "Usually, I'm not even sure what color I'm going to use until I open the palette. Then I get a brush, load it with that color and start."

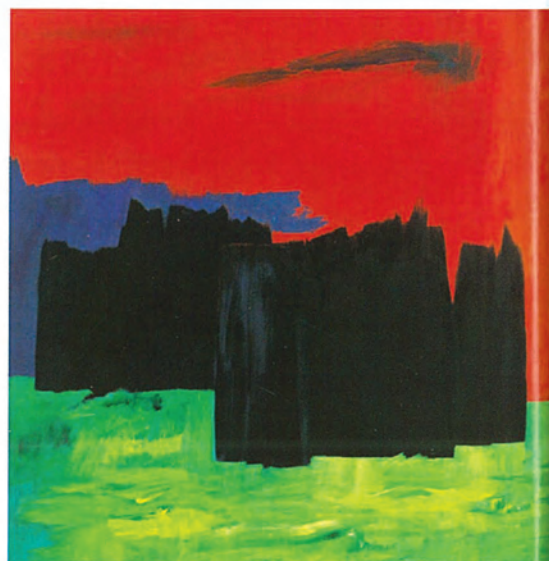
Favorite Subject Matter

"On the surface, it seems like it's landscape, but that's just a vehicle to express my real subject—me," says Evans. The way a fork rests on a plate is fraught with compositional and emotional meaning for him. In his paintings, a thick stretch of horizon may be about being grounded, and a stark vertical shape will suggest strength. Flying forms suggest breaking away and moving into other areas. He takes familiar forms and invites the



"One Plus Three in Red," acrylic on canvas, 24" x 24"

"Four in Green Field," acrylic on canvas, 72" x 72"



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EMERGING ARTIST



"Black Square with Yellow Edge," acrylic on canvas, 30" x 48"

"Red by Three," acrylic on canvas, 24" x 24"; "Yellow Streak over Lagoon," acrylic on canvas, 30" x 30" (below, right)



art than from anyone else's."

First Artistic Inspiration

Evans grew up in a small Texas town, in a world completely devoid of art. When he was under ether for a surgical procedure at age 2 1/2, he "saw these flying figures. They had wings shaped like the ends of crescents. That motif came and went in my work from my early 20s to fairly recently."

viewer to experience them in a fresh way.

Favorite Piece

"I have been making art for 45 years," he says. "I don't know how I could choose that." The works he's drawn to are the ones that have mystery and continue to intrigue him, long after he has finished painting them. "I learn more from my own

Most Influential People

Evans' father taught him to work and be responsible, and his mother taught him to play and enjoy life. He admired Rothko for color and space, Milton Avery for composition, Albert Pinkham Ryder for drama and mystery, Anselm Kiefer for intense psychological drama and the dark aspect that Evans loves to embrace.



"Square in Orange over Green," acrylic on canvas, 60" x 60"

"Yellow Square in Black," acrylic on canvas, 30" x 30"



Biggest Break

Coming from a small town, Evans thought going to a university was a minor miracle. There he discovered that adults painted with watercolors, saw his first piece of original art and had studied under art teachers who were very dedicated. He devoured what they had to teach him and became a nationally known ceramist before switching to painting in 1991.

Artistic Philosophy

"I look as much as I can at everything around me," Evans says. "I try not to evaluate it then. I get it inside of me, and after a while it comes back out in my paintings. The world and I are the same thing." Evans has a note that

he wrote to himself tacked up on a wall: "Avoid making art that is accessible to everyone and important to no one." ♦

By Judith Fein and Paul Ross
Portrait by Jennifer Esperanza

RICHARD WILSON

(1714-1782)

canvas size: 54"W x 43"H

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