

Michael Berry

The pictorial abstract world of Michael Berry is one of extreme spatial complexity, relying on the whole history of the universal visual language of art for its initial grammar, syntax, vocabulary and narrative – a world of untrammelled energy.

His masterly calligraphic line, vibrant and scintillating tones and colors, vectored brush strokes animating and disturbing the picture plane, positive and negative space counterpoises, multiple vanishing points and shifting focus, destruction of the “autonomous viewer in the picture plane”, and lyrically beautiful compositions, attest to an artist who is not afraid to go for broke to innovate the new.

“It is about transcending style,” Berry says.

“Symphonic Space” is his answer to the next logical step beyond Abstract Expressionism – and it is evident when viewing his pictures that this musical terminology is right on the mark. Each work is pure visual music - it is micro and macrocosm at play visually.

Berry is somewhat of an artistic polymath with his approach to adapting a particular medium to his task at hand, comfortably working in a broad range of disciplines from charcoal, graphite, watercolor, ink, acrylic, pastels and oils, to assemblage, collage, sculpture and monumental installations. There is only one medium in art, he says, and that is “thinking”!

He is equally able to articulate what others achieve in a manner that demystifies much of the arty palaver that passes for serious painterly/sculptural criticism. A published author, speaker, playwright, lyricist, art critic and art show judge, he is a passionate promoter of cultural excellence.