

BRUSH-BY-BRUSH: DINESH DOSHI

Frames a Blank Canvas into a Moment in Time

by Laura Shirk

After speaking with Dinesh Doshi, I hung up the phone and walked away from the interview with a smile on my face. Not only because I had the opportunity to learn more about the established oil painter, his creative process and outlook on life, but also because my questions had led to an unexpected internalization of sorts. And just like Doshi's work, the push for self-reflection symbolized a moment in time.

Spanning generations and crossing cultures, at the center of Doshi's journey is the action (or perhaps the reaction) of moving forward. Constantly evolving as both an individual and an artist, he understands the importance of celebrating life with or without a brush in his hand.

The past point: Jehangir Art Gallery, Mumbai, 1971

At the age of twenty-one, the emerging artist

transformed one of his first solo exhibit's into a source for inspiration. As noted online, Doshi writes, "It identified me as a painter. The success of the show and the great reviews convinced me of making a commitment to pursue art for the rest of my life."

Throughout the years, while this commitment rang true in terms of selling original paintings and limited productions worldwide, Doshi pressed pause on exhibiting his work. In addition to re-locating to the United States and earning a Masters Degree in Architecture, his time was spent shying away from the spotlight. Continuing to add to his collection without recognition, Doshi struggled to part with each piece completed. It was only after accepting the importance of seeking a broader audience and expanding his reach that the artist could take his next step.

The present point: Emmanuel Fremin Art Gallery, New York City, 2016

At the age of sixty-three, with the title of Life in Motion, this year marked Doshi's return as an exhibiting artist. Believing the opposite of life in motion to be death, Doshi's exhibition celebrated his ongoing artistic journey and the evolution of simple subject matter to complex composition.

Inspired by the cultural shifts experienced over his lifetime, Doshi's collection is categorized by figurative, horizon and abstract. While the artist describes his creative process as: standing in front of the canvas and painting whatever he feels in that moment, he too draws on life lived: observations and absorption of people, cultures, aging and incidents. It's the blending of past and present that allows him to catch the criss-cross of the brush, the melting of the colors and the moment in time.

Relying on instinct and intuition, Doshi



Unicorn



Lean on

never sits down to paint having planned the colour choice or subject matter. He doesn't care to capture a certain theme or convey a specific message. He just lets it flow. No mental restriction. And it's possible that as the storyteller, even after his final stroke, he doesn't understand the story just told. Maybe he'll have an Aha moment in the weeks to follow, maybe not. Describing his lack of understanding at times, Doshi explains, "Your mind is so complex and it interprets every experience or incident in your life in multiple ways, adding more complexity for an artist making it beyond comprehension."

Having always had a fascination with the female body, Doshi often reconfigures the physical being and creates his own abstract language when painting. He portrays lips as signifying how we speak; how we communicate gossip and eyes as signifying how we see; how we perceive realizations. Subconsciously, he seeks reassurance and acceptance. Consciously, he leaves behind great memories – regardless of if they are misunderstood or misinterpreted.

Similar to the theory behind Life in Motion, Doshi doesn't believe in the act of re-touching in order to remain completely honest to his work. "Like in life, we can't go back and correct. That is your history and moment captured with the emotion at that time," he notes.

The future point: Unknown

Looking ahead, Doshi is excited by the promise of new venues and new adventures.

Young at heart, he believes that he's still got a lot left to get out of life. Taking with him valuable lessons like always stay true to oneself, Doshi will continue to explore his personal purpose and promote forward thinking, forward moving.

Currently in development, Doshi plans to exhibit an upcoming collection centered on inner emotion, infatuation and passion. ♦



Married



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