

The Fine Art of Letting Go



Jonas Gerard's opening exhibition at Summit One Gallery will be held on Saturday, April 12th with a Performance Painting at 4:00 p.m.

Born in Casablanca, Morocco, Jonas Gerard has spent his lifetime learning how to let go. During his 66 years he has crafted magnificent wings, each feather a happy and purposeful contradiction. To learn, he has unlearned. To control, he has surrendered. To care deeply, he has done anything but.

He owes much of his current success, though he doesn't put store in money or fame, to an epiphany he experienced 20 years ago while attending a painting workshop

in California. The facilitator told Jonas to quit trying to be the master of his medium. "Instead," he said, "Let your brush do the painting."

Gerard, startled at first, yielded to the will of his instructor and his own brush. Much to his surprise and delight, the paint began to swirl, leap, play, and speak in ways unaccustomed. All sorts of previously unexpressed images rushed forth. A huge door swung open to Gerard, a door to Spirit and a universal vibration that hums in all artists who tap into its energy.

He discovered that the more he let his brush do the painting, the more he disconnected from his critical mind and the more he connected to his own intuition and spontaneity.

Gerard says, "It is what four-year-olds do naturally. They have no opinion about right or wrong ways of painting. They just paint! I don't paint to make a statement. There is no deep meaning. There is no need for approval. There is no judgment when I paint. It is the opposite of what is taught in art school."



Gerard is a self-taught individualist who has made a bold mark on the art world without art school credentials.

His work hangs in the Smithsonian, in numerous private and public collections, and in the homes of a president and statesmen. He has even been featured on ABC's "20/20."

When asked by his peers, who seek their own fame, how he does it, he says, "Don't try to be famous. It gets in the way. Give up fame and paint like a child. That's when the unlearning process begins."

His voice, with its delightful gravelly French accent, rises to an even higher level of enthusiasm when he talks about clients who buy his work.

"When people look at these paintings they are moved in a way they can't

understand. It is the sweetest thing to see the sparkle in their faces when the painting resonates with them unexpectedly and they can't put it into words." Something tells me Jonas Gerard is going to be joyfully jumping off cliffs and flying high for a very long time. Highlands will get to experience Gerard's special brand of genius firsthand in his exhibition at Summit One. He will present a live painting performance demonstration much like the one viewed on "20/20" as seen on his website at www.jonasgerard.com. To get a sneak preview of his amazing dancing while painting style, go to his YouTube video at www.youtube.com:80/watch?v=111lfe1ngtc.

Catch him while you can at Summit one. Call for more details at (828) 526-2673. Summit One is located at The Galleries, South Second Street, in Highlands. ■

