



Portrait of Oskar Kokoschka

THE KOKOSCHKA LEGACY



Portrait of Wayne Ensrud

WAYNE ENSRUD: THE KOKOSCHKA LEGACY

As a young college student, Wayne Ensrud met the Austrian painter Oskar Kokoschka. For a period of twenty seven years from their first meeting until Kokoschka's death, the great artist shared his philosophy and spiritual vision with Ensrud.

A giant towering above his own time, Kokoschka created works as a painter, draughtsman and author, in which he holds up a critical mirror. Representing par excellence a new movement in painting, his artworks are found in important museums and testify to his fame. However, he was conscious of the artist's heightened responsibility in an epoch which propounded the relativity of all values. His creative élan forged ahead to bring forth new artworks expressing an affirmation of life.

Any evaluation of Kokoschka must go beyond the spheres of form and aesthetics. It must include the whole person, the ethical personality. For Kokoschka, art has a mission to perform; it should be a means of communication between people. The same purpose as language, a painting should be a means of establishing contact with others. The artist has a responsibility to envision and embrace the whole world in a spirit of love; to see and rejoice in the grand unity of creation.

ABSTRACT PAINTING: A NEW SYNTHESIS

The teaching of Oskar Kokoschka as absorbed by Ensrud is evident in his paintings. Over time, Ensrud became aware that his faithfulness to Kokoschka in subject matter and aesthetic approach did not find a receptive audience.

Although certain individuals continued to be supportive, Ensrud came to realize that if he wanted to be on a communicative 'wavelength' with the larger public, he would need to find a fresh and new way that would open up those channels. A period of soul searching exploration followed until he came to realize that he could continue to embrace the spiritual truths and aesthetic knowledge Kokoschka had imparted, but it would be necessary to expand beyond the city and portrait as primary subject matter.

Ensrud chose to adopt the 'format' of abstract painting. He believes the mind must be capable of abandoning the traditional structures of form in art, thinking out another form not previously existing. This is genuine creativity. The new art begins by being absolutely a work of imagination.



Dream Dancing (detail) by Wayne Ensrud



Time, Gentlemen, Please (detail) by Oskar Kokoschka

Art can be a gateway between two worlds: between the inner world of self and the outer world of things. Kokoschka relied upon **external nature (cityscape and portraiture) as his source of inspiration. Ensrud responds to both **outer** and **inner** aspects as sources of inspiration. **Paintings are more than visual description, they are evocations of mood and sensation.****

Color and form convey emotional states as legitimate ‘subject matter’ for art **without any other frame of reference.**

Images are bound to things, but are at the same time separate from them. The magical power of forms and colors lie precisely in their **autonomy, in their freedom to **float free** from mere objects. The painting becomes “a spiritually breathing object, hovering in the air.”***

Although Ensrud’s recent paintings may be called ‘non-object’ art, the attentive eye will discover that the legacy of Kokoschka’s spiritual message and aesthetic means continue the belief that through expressing compassion and joy art creates a possibility for others to experience joy and happiness - **and this is a real service to humanity.**

*Wassily Kandinsky, *Concerning the Spiritual in Art*



Tocqueville Salade II

acrylic on canvas

45 x 38 in.

Art need not be a re-representation of nature, it can be a distinct autonomous *reality*. These recent paintings by Wayne Ensrud are pure emotion expressed in color and form which create an atmosphere of mood and sensation.



Pomegranate

acrylic on canvas

36 x 24 in.



Pumpkin

acrylic on canvas

30 x 24 in.



Look What I Found

acrylic on canvas

36 x 24 in.



Explorer

acrylic on canvas

36 x 24 in.



Enchanted April

acrylic on canvas

36 x 48 in. (diptych)



THE FOUR SEASONS - SPRING acrylic on canvas 68 x 60 in.



THE FOUR SEASONS: SUMMER acrylic on canvas 68x60 in.



THE FOUR SEASONS: AUTUMN

acrylic on canvas 68x60 in.



THE FOUR SEASONS: WINTER

acrylic on canvas

68x60 in.



'Islas Canarias' 60 x 50 in. mixed media on canvas



Spring Lake

acrylic on canvas

60 x 50 in.



Flying Free

triptych: 36 x 90 in.

acrylic on canvas



Firefly

triptych: 32 x 75 in.

acrylic on canvas



La Playa

triptych: 44 x 108 in.

acrylic on canvas



Painted Music

triptych: 24 x 54 in

acrylic on canvas



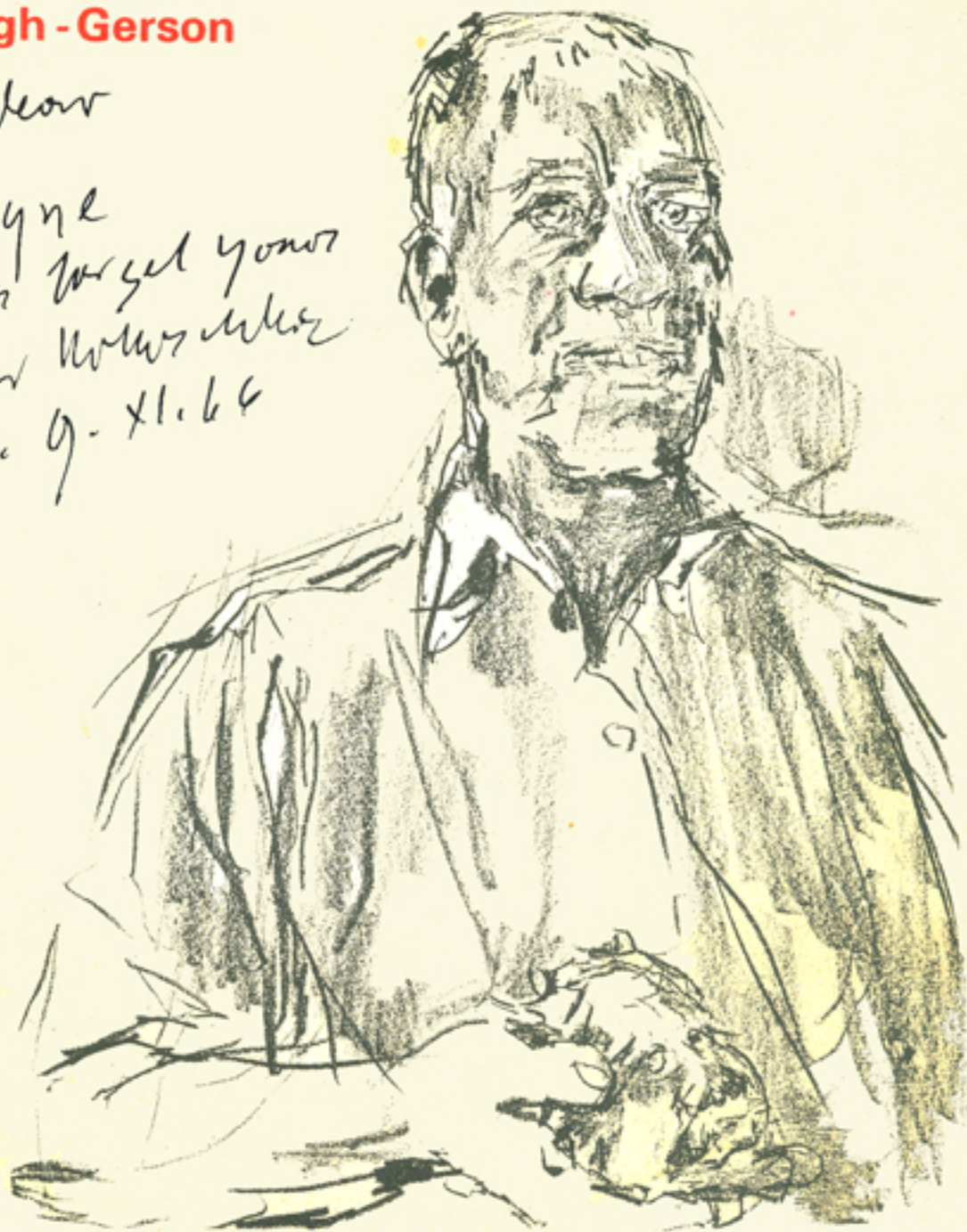
'Vermeer Series'

48 x 40 in. each / mixed media on canvas

Marlborough - Gerson

For my dear

Wayne
do never forget yours
oskar Kokoschka
N.Y. 9. 11. 64



Kokoschka

Inscribed by Oskar Kokoschka: "For my dear Wayne, do never forget your Oskar Kokoschka"



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