

A respectful bow to practices of art education in Silicon Valley

Artists are driven to create, and most artists have a predisposition for being creative. It's more like having your finger stuck in an electrical socket than an avocation. Traditionally, artists have been known to foster their world views, not just by manifesting art.....but by creating a following of students (as well as collectors) to carry on their traditions. Lou Bermingham and John Kurtyka have this much in common: their lessons are explored in the common ground of love, patience, and attention to nurturing the seeds of creativity in students.

One School - Many Students: At Independence High School

Lou Bermingham stands in front of high school art classes five days a week. That's 150 teenagers a day— and if you know teenagers you might think that is a lion's share of teaching, but Lou thrives here at Independence High in San Jose and so do his students.

Lou's training in Akido (he also teaches at Aikido of Los Gatos) helps to create a balance between the diverse world of high school education and the intimate setting of his studio, which sits quietly along a remote roadside in Holy City off Highway 17.

For Lou, who graduated from San Jose State with a Fine Arts degree in 1979, this creative realm of fine art has developed series after series of soulful abstract imagery.

The work reveals a touch of innocence merging with ancient psyche. Each piece is explored with the pure love of color and heart. It's a true reflection of both arts education and martial arts practice; simple elements are freely explored, and a feeling of lightness, penetrating through, revealing the deeper qualities that abstract work is so well known for.

Lou's efforts bring viewers full circle with his childlike gaze into the nature of the universe.

The hypnotic and meditative effect of his work is evident by the long list of exhibitions and collectors who have remained fans for years.



Pagan Gate 1994
48" x 90" etched glass, acrylic, canvas & wood

Lou broadened his cultural horizons by spending a year in Aix en Provence, studying drawing, painting and stained glass design. His "base" reflects this diversity, with clients in Paris and St. Malo, Brittany, the accounting firm of Cabinet Arca, and Laurencin Architectural Associates in Paris. His work has also been collected in Japan, New Zealand and other parts of Europe.

Recently, Manuel and Sherri Hoffmann had Lou's artwork in a plein aire display in their beautiful gardens in Atherton, and when local high tech CEO Alain Labat and his wife, Carla, lived in Los Gatos, they too had an open house reception for Lou's paintings.

Lou's work was displayed at Virtual Gallery in downtown Los Gatos until it closed its doors in 2001.

Currently Lou's art can be viewed at <http://www.loubermingham.com>. He can also be reached for appointments at (408) 245-5135 or at LouBermingham@cruzers.net.

