

KENISMAN

www.KENISMAN.com

kenisman@gmail.com | +32(0)476/61.38.09



Artist Statement



Through my art, I explore the possibility to distinguish eye sight from the uncertain and deceptive reality. My artistic process is imbued to a meditative force that allows myself to separate external perception from internal vision—to reveal the true inner sight. This inner sight allows me to transcend the representational realism of much conventional art that is based on a misleading idea of reality. Like a third eye, this practice allows me to direct my attention to the inner reservoir of creativity and to discover the means to give it an appropriate artistic expression, thereby freeing my artistic activity from the preconditioned mind.

When working on a new piece, I let the lines flow. The eye follows the hand. The hand follows the eye. I do not allow my creativity to be blurred by a modeled, prefabricated, pre-visualized image to be (re-) produced on canvas. My approach follows the pure and undistracted concentration on the natural evolution of lines and shapes embodied in my hand.

At heart of my creations, it embeds a reflection on the veracity of vision and the possibilities and limitations of representation. What do we see? What is reality? How is reality built and how to create a new one? An artist's attempt to copy reality as it is must always be futile. Our visual perception of the external world is not objective and free. The reality that we believe to see, and the way how we see it, is largely determined by our social, educational, cultural and psychological backgrounds. Other aspects such as religious and ideological beliefs, moral values or social roles shape our view on reality even without us being aware of it. Same as the prisoners in Plato's cave, we can only see what we are used to see, and we believe that what we see is the true and only shape of the world.

I question the true meaning of art, if art is only meant to be copying nature. Therefore, through my art, I guide the audience to a new pathway of recognizing the reality. Everybody is given the opportunity to tell their own story. Different people, moreover, will see differently, as each of them is attracted to different images and memories in his/her own mind. This approach confirms the uniqueness of every individual's state of mind and worldview. These various possible associations are, and they were, the sensual, reflective visual memories saved in our brains. The actual details on the painting surface, in fact, reveal themselves as mere accumulations of lines and shapes. The finished work of art, the result of the physical act of drawing and painting, reveals a highly visual nature that dominates in the subject's own realistic materiality; but instead, a good piece of art should contain interrogative visualization and dynamic openness. To me, the act of artistic creation serves such higher purpose. I believe in an artistic practice that can lead to a better understanding of what and how we see. Insight is the beginning of change. The awakening and awareness of the conventional viewing patterns that govern our everyday lives will free us to see things from a different angle, catalyzes the possibilities to see something new.

“ The aim of art is not to copy nature, but to express it! ”

