

Kant and the Work of Art: Purposeless Purposiveness

- Clement Greenberg, a noted art critic, claims that Kant's book The Critique of Judgment is a trusted guide for understanding aesthetics.
- Greenberg thinks one need not know anything about the history of artwork to know what is good. Those who know are sure to find agreement with others even if none put what makes good art into words.
- This line of thinking aligns with Kant's notion of Free Beauty.
- Free beauty aligns with spirit, the animating principle of mind, an idea experienced first through the senses without concepts.
- Motivated by disinterest, the animating principle is not meant to satisfy a practical or personal desire; it aims to impart an individual feeling of pleasure or pain.
- Aesthetic judgments differ from logical judgments designed for a purpose.
- This spirit is internally connected to the cognitive faculties generating an experience of free play that promotes greater understanding and imagination from their concord. Free Beauty.
- Free play in judgments is a pleasurable experience open to everyone, and aesthetic judgments attempt to shed more light on the unknown root of two stems (sensibility and understanding) at the base of the deep mind.

Genius is original : it evokes Spirit

GENIUS

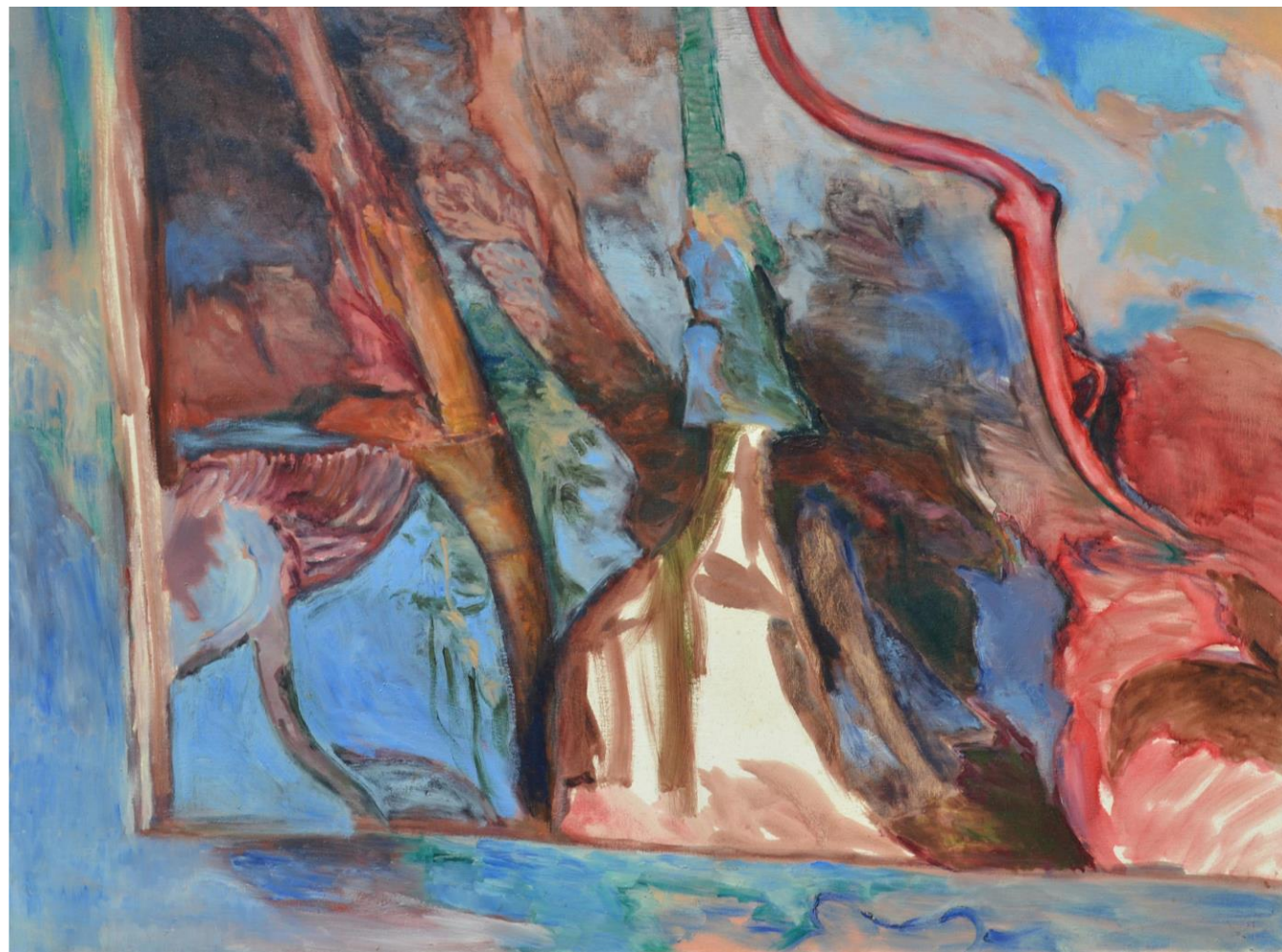
The Portraits of Ellsabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun: (Brush)Strokes of Female Genius



Joel Babb: Painter –Lives and Works in Sumner, Maine

- Born in Georgia and raised in Nebraska, Joel is a New Englander by acclimatization. His aesthetic sense developed from extended sojourns to Italy, where he found his focus admiring the Old Masters and the Monuments.
- Joel's uncle was an artist. His mother idolized him, and his works influenced Joel as a boy.
- Joel majored in art history at Princeton, forming a friendship with John MacGregor, a graduate student whose thesis concentrated on psychoanalysis, the unconscious, and the inner necessity of art. Jung's Red Book...
- Macgregor influenced Babb as an aspiring artist who recognized his attraction to modernist ideas associated with abstract-expressionism.
- In good time, as Babb felt his desire to choose painting as a vocation, he recognized his shortcomings and the many more years required to achieve mastery of mediums. Rome and Boston offered schooling in techniques and the ways of painting.
- His time abroad convinced him that he wanted to be an artist.

Joel Babb's Window
Abstraction 1969
@Princeton-
random objects
suggestive of
anxieties, elements
of a dream.



Matthew Wong-Genius from Nowhere 1984-2019

- Matthew Wong died from suicide in Alberta, Canada, at the age of thirty-five, when the world took serious notice of his prodigious talent as a self-taught artist. He worked alone from a studio in an industrial neighborhood to produce works of astonishing lyricism, melancholy, intelligence, and sincerity.
- He learned the history and method of painting through Facebook, Tumblr, Instagram, and the Hong Kong Public Library reference section. Viewers of his work see references to the influence of so many of the great masters, including Cezanne, Van Gogh, Marsden Hartley, Shitao, Alex Katz, Amy Stillman, etc...
- Matthew worked alone at a furious pace completing major pieces of art in one day. He posted them on Facebook with friends and strangers. Images of his work gained notice.
- His first breakthrough happened at a solo exhibition in Hong Kong in 2015, but his next target was the New York art world. He learned about White Columns, a nonprofit space supporting artists not formally represented, and he submitted six paintings by email.
- Matthew Higgs, the director of White Columns, responded immediately and the stage was set for a show on landscapes at Karma, an East Village Gallery in September 2016.

Blue Light:
Matthew
Wong





Tracking in a Blue Forest



See You On The Other Side

