

Mark Ostapchuk's Creative Narrative:

In my visual work, I am concerned with the interaction of the prescribed with the intuitive. I am also looking for an interplay and ambiguity between that which might seem blasé or cliché at first viewing, but which might also have the power to take on meanings more poignant and richer upon further viewing and contemplation. Also, for me, the inverse- the ability of the seemingly important to become ridiculous is a concern. Along a similar direction I look to decisions that have a place in both everyday and museum contexts. For example, I like that scallop shapes are found in both 1960's tract house mill-work and in Kandinsky's paintings. In addition to these visual inputs, I like and look to the ways jazz singers interpret and play with the lyrics and music within prescribed songs. My deep concern with the physical qualities of materials within my pictures also informs my visual decisions. While currently the much of my work involves oil painting, multi-media acrylic based paintings, I am aggressively including dry pastel drawings and watercolors into my current body of work. Artists that I look to as influences include Philip Guston, Eva Hesse, Matisse, de-Kooning and Watteau among others. Artists' work that I've been recently thinking about and looking at includes that of Sassetta, and Ree Morton, among others.

Summing up my creative background, for over the past 20 years I have maintained a studio, worked and exhibited and taught. I wish to resolve in-progress drawings and paintings and look to new sources and alternate precedents to push and challenge my ways of working. I am trying to accomplish assured and yet fresh individual pieces within a larger body of work.