

# SONCE ALEXANDER GALLERY

## **Art Above Reality**

**MYSTIFY.** THE ESSENCE of this word describes the work of Christopher Kuhn. With so many twists and turns of color, one could imagine that the details are meant to confuse the viewer. It took me a few glances to really understand what Christopher Kuhn was presenting in his work.

Material Witness, Kuhn's exhibit at the Sonce Alexander Gallery opening on November 1st, is a collection of eclectic pieces that challenge the every day art appreciator. Splashes of controlled color and seemingly uncontrolled brush strokes work together to create a style of "Abstract Expressionism" that I personally admire. The strength of color, the depth of the shapes and the simplicity used by Kuhn, create an epileptic sense when the brush goes from palette to canvas.

At first glance bewilderment leads to an immediate want to see a naivety in the artist and work's loaded paint surface featuring narrative titles. But there is something much deeper to the work. I believe Christopher channels the simplicity of Cy Twombly, Jackson Pollock's aggressiveness, along with Mark Rothko's love for symmetry.

Christopher Kuhn's work challenges the viewer to access the vast untapped potential of the brain. Conceptualization and imagination are highly recommended when stepping into the world of this artist. The first piece that caught my eye was Tie Breaker created in 2014. This painting stands out because of its use of brushstrokes, guiding the viewer through a visual racetrack. As you follow each stroke to a corresponding color, it seems to signal a change in thought.

This painting reminded me of the grueling days of learning how to tie your sneakers as a child. I immediately laughed when I saw the piece. It placed me in a moment where I could actually feel myself trying over and over again to be a "big kid", the repetition and the reconsideration of a simple moment and movement.

Christopher Kuhn's work reveals character. Each piece tells its own story with no perceivable origin. The character of a work is important in Art. When a piece takes on a life of it's own, it has a soul within the gallery and this extends through the reactions and comments of appreciation.

*Written By Badir McCleary for ArtAboveReality.com, 2014*