

Steve Breerwood: Nihilostlgia

To be a realist is to insist that only objective reality is relevant. This is different from the typical idea of realism as a style of painting. A true Realist painter can deal with both the objective reality of human experience and the literal reality of a painting as a flat surface with colorful, glorified mud stuck to it. I am a painter of subjective realism. The inner life of a human being is an equally real phenomenon occurring within the objective reality we share. The concepts I deal with are humanistic in nature, and as such I find painting to be a fitting expression of human nature. Painting is a continuum as old as behaviorally modern humanity itself. The mark of the hand is the most direct and most primordial outlet for sapient expression in all of the visual arts. Human experience is a compromise between the perception of objective reality and the inner processing of its meaning. My most recent work is about social isolation, a subject of increasing significance as we become more virtually connected while physical communities dwindle. The perspective on this subject, however, is placed in a more personal context, focusing on the humanity of the existential struggle navigating the space between ones own ears.