



Live a Love

SURFACE TREATMENT

What: "Bruno: The Legacy of an Artist-Educator"
Where: STC Library Art Galleries, Bldg F, 3201 W Pecan Blvd
When: January-February 27, 2020
Hours: 7am-9:30pm Mon-Thurs, 8am-7pm Friday
Info: 956) 872-3488 or <https://library.southtexascollege.edu/libraryart>

Influencing Generations

South Texas College Library looks at impact of mentorship in this new exhibition

BY NANCY MOYER

SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR

"Bruno: The Legacy of an Artist-Educator" honors the late South Texas artist, Bruno Andrade, with simultaneous exhibitions of the educator's artwork and that of his former students, most of whom have gone on to be professional artists themselves. Curated by his son, Trey Andrade, the artist's paintings are shown upstairs in the STC Library Art Gallery in collaboration with STC's Visual Art Department. Student works fill the downstairs gallery and offer insight into the lasting impact of student/mentor relationships.

A widely recognized American artist and originally from San Antonio, Andrade was a Professor of Art at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Essentially a realist, Andrade's artistry was driven by a profound sense of place with and the soul of a colorist. Painting from memory and relying on his own interior vision, he adjusted the natural world through a refined sense of abstraction and vivid coloration. Moving beyond still life and nature, the paintings are ultimately celebrations of color lovingly referencing the natural world; the work reveals a dual enthusiasm for nature and the joy of color. "Luminous Hill" is a color fantasy of trees and land. And demonstrates Andrade's vision of an idyllic world, a respite from the complexities of the actual

world - places of positive affirmation where carefree landscapes erase fear and uncertainties

"I strive to be in touch with the land, particularly the land of the Texas coast," Andrade once stated. "I feel nature's power in the soil, the energy of the trees, the plants, and the flowers. By embracing the earth with my heart as well as my eyes, I am inspired with intense feeling." He explained that this sense of intense feeling could occur when looking at, perhaps, a tree until it became another type of tree. His psychological intimacy with landscapes and still life arrangements helped him to develop a higher sense of self and clarity, so that rather than painting the appearance of things, he painted how they affected him. He strove to communicate pleasure and serenity in his painting, inviting the viewer into his world of wonder. In these paintings, natural objects become color objects that live in suspension between reality and personal vision, reminiscent of Matisse's style of vivid expressionistic and non-naturalistic color usage. A decorative quality also reveals itself in paintings like "That Crazy Feeling" which combines still life and landscape. Here, an unusual dichotomy is established with stylized flowers decorating a pink and blue wall adjacent to a vase containing a realistically painted bouquet. There's a subtle Chicano vibe here, but the landscape references French Art Nouveau; Andrade was able to bring it all together in a painted choreography that exists beyond geographical constraints.

The paintings of his students are testimonials to the merits of Andrade's teaching effectiveness. Generally, these works show a color rationale that communicates the artist's subject through color. Joe Peña's "Late Night Austin TX" uses a dark green hue to convey the ambiance of an isolated nighttime food stand. Manny Chapa's "El Trompo" gives us the intensity of joy in a child's small toy.

There will be a closing reception for this exhibition from 5 to 7 pm at the STC Pecan Campus Library Art Gallery on Thursday, Feb. 27th. Earlier that day, former students Rolando Reyna and Joe Peña will lecture at 10 am in the STC Library Rainbow Room. A workshop will be held at 1 pm in the Art Building, B113. All events are free and open to the public.

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