

BRADFORD STEWART: THE MUSICIAN'S PAINTER

Music And Art Have Been An Important Part of This Artist's Life

BY KATHY BRYANT

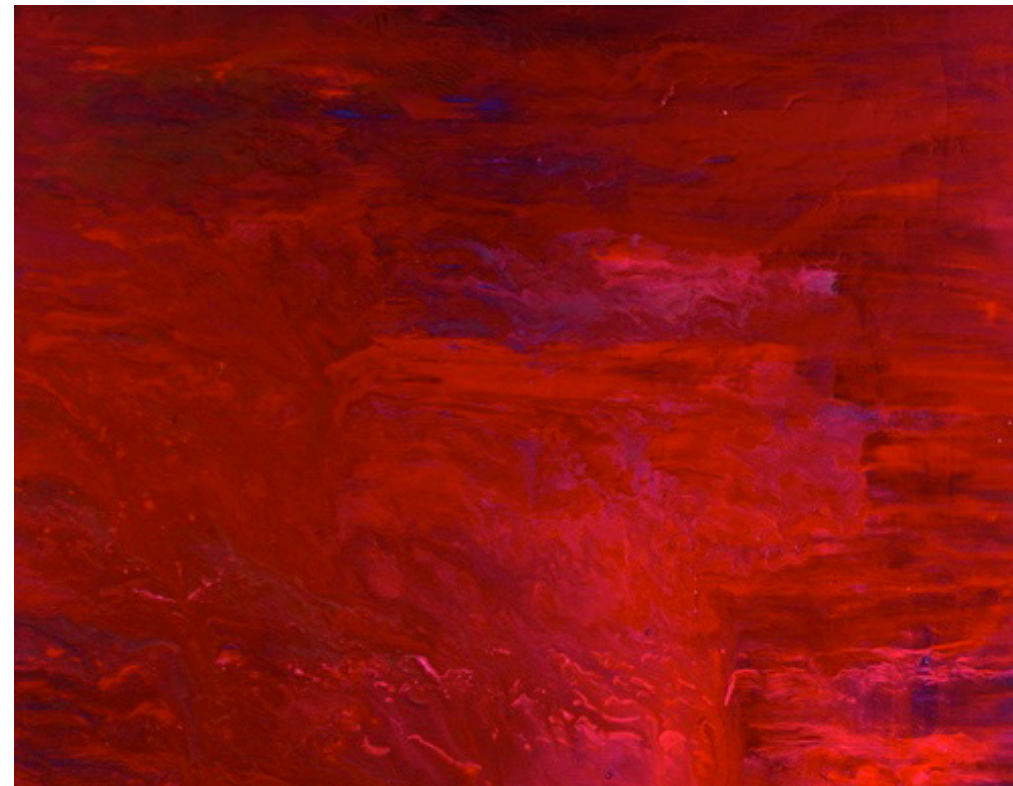
JOHN COLTRANE'S JAZZ FILLS Bradford Stewart's art studio as he adds layer after layer of paint on the over-sized canvas. "Music helps me get in a special mind set. I then can use my right brain, my creative side," says Stewart, explaining the way music inspires him.

Music and art have been an important part of Stewart's life since he was a young child. He enjoyed doing drawings when he was little while listening to the jazz records his father, Kipp Stewart, was playing as he designed furniture. His father worked with Charles Eames, so creativity was an important part of Stewart's life from the beginning.

"I knew I wanted to be a musician and a composer. And I had a successful career doing that," he says. "But about twenty years ago I found that being on the road all the time as a musician was hard work. I had to do something creative, so I started to paint. Both music and art are similar in that you create something from nothing."

ABOVE TOP
Lavender Skies
4 x 8 feet
Mixed Media on Aluminum Panel
Indoor/Outdoor

ABOVE BOTTOM
Surfing Costa Rica
3 x 8 feet
Mixed Media on Aluminum Panel
Indoor/Outdoor



Red Sea
6 x 8 feet
Mixed Media on Aluminum Panel
Indoor/Outdoor

**"PEOPLE REACT
TO THE PAINTINGS
EMOTIONALLY"**
—BRADFORD STEWART



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBIN GANTER PHOTOGRAPHY

Stewart's bold paintings have the energy and rhythm that's found in his music. "Sometimes I have thirty or forty layers of paint on a work. To me that's a very similar process to composing music and orchestration." Stewart feels that the layers of pearlescent colors give depth to the works since they reflect light back from the surface, almost like the shimmer on the sun-lit ocean. "I keep changing and experimenting all the time. I get bored doing the same thing."

Stewart's latest challenge has been in the area of aluminum art for the outdoors. "My father pioneered high-end teak furniture and designs for the outdoors so I grew up around the indoor/outdoor idea. I realized that the missing element in outdoor rooms was art. My large outdoor paintings were successful from the beginning. Now I'm working on free-standing, more sculptural works." His aluminum artwork is UV protected and engineered to meet all weather conditions. The layers of reflective paints are coated with layers of protectant resins which cause the paintings to change colors with the light of the day or night.

Although Stewart's paintings are abstracts, people look at them and see waterfalls, landscapes and other realistic scenes. "People react to the paintings emotionally," he explains. "They often report that the paintings are very moving and invoke a deep emotional response akin to what good music will do for one's soul." His clients are so enamored with his works that most buy in multiples. "I rarely sell only one painting."

Positioned together in a room, Stewart's works arouse feelings almost dance-like with their vibrant color palette and rhythm. In fact, one of his latest projects was done in partnership with Art Director John Kosh. They have created an art/ballet video, "Ballet in Abstract," that has been sent to major museums and may also be seen on Stewart's website. And so the up-to-the-minute vitality and creativity of Bradford Stewart continues with no end in sight. **CH**

www.bradfordstewart.com