

Steve Breerwood: Artist Statement

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 glorified mud stuck by hand to its surface. Human experience is a compromise between the perception of objective reality and the inner processing of its meaning. 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. In recent years, I have become increasingly withdrawn and socially isolated. My personal reality has become an existential struggle navigating the space between my own ears. I choose painting because the mark of the hand is the most primal expression of this search for human meaning. My concepts deal with humanism based in autobiography. In these depictions of my own inner life, representation is memory and expressionism is theory. You'll find them in varying proportions.