



The USF School of Art & Art History Presents Bruce Marsh – A Six Decade Survey August 21 – September 7, 2023

Reception Friday, August 25, 2023 7:00-9:00pm

(TAMPA, FL—August 2, 2023) The School of Art & Art History in the USF College of The Arts, presents ***Bruce Marsh – A Six Decade Survey***. Bruce Marsh has been painting for six decades. He was invited to teach at USF in 1969 and retired as Professor Emeritus in 2003 after 37 years of dedicated service to the students and USF. This exhibition will feature over four dozen oil paintings and watercolors that will trace his career from 1963 when he was in California, where he grew up and attended UC Santa Barbara, to the present where he paints almost daily in his studio in Ruskin, FL on the Little Manatee River.

Marsh's paintings are thought out. They are intellectual and they are visceral. His works stimulate all the senses. The exhibition will demonstrate that Marsh is a painter's painter, meaning that he is committed to the process of painting as well as to all that goes on before putting the paint to canvas – the thinking and planning,

the strategy, the invention and the intuitive response to an idea, a subject, or a concept.

The exhibition will trace themes and threads of ideas and concepts that have been an interest and focus for Marsh for six decades. While he was teaching Marsh remained a student himself constantly striving to learn more and experiment. He says studying Josef Albers' work in the 1960's was his key to understanding color. Over his career he became a master of color. The exhibition will manifest his experiments and developments in many areas of perception.

Paintings in the exhibition will demonstrate his interest in many themes including the landscape and particularly the land around Ruskin that has changed dramatically in the last twenty years. He made annual trips to Utah between 2005 and 2010. The rock formations and light inspired him to make paintings that encourage us to question our ideas about perception. A cabin in the woods pushed him in other directions and experiments.

As an avid reader and observer of art, culture, and history among many other subjects, he thoughtfully considers how these inform his painting. He actively contemplates the history of art and the historical context of what interests him, reflecting on how his paintings will add to the continuum and advancement of ideas about painting. As a painter he is constantly re-thinking his process. Each new painting represents a complex matrix of planning and invention.

In looking closely at the work from the past sixty years chosen for this exhibition, one can appreciate the subtle refinement of Marsh's approach. Observe the attention he pays to the edges in his brushwork. Notice the balance he maintains in contrasts of dark and light in each area of the composition. As Marsh states: "no part is more important – each has the same energy – each mark creates the total integration" of marks on the surface of the painting.

Bruce Marsh- A Six Decade Survey is curated by Mark Ormond, an independent curator, author, lecturer and consultant, and organized by the School of Art and Art History as part of the College of the Arts at the University of South Florida. Thank you to the many generous donors who have helped make this special exhibition possible.

Please join us along with the artist at the [Carolyn M. Wilson Gallery](#) for an opening reception on Friday, August 25, from 7:00- 9:00pm.

EXHIBITION HOURS

Exhibition Dates: August 21 – September 7

Exhibition Reception: Friday, August 25, 7- 9pm

Regular Gallery Hours: Monday – Thursday, 11am- 3pm

Closed University Holidays: September 4th in observance of Labor Day

The Carolyn M. Wilson Gallery is located at 3801 USF Holly Dr. Tampa, FL 33620

All exhibitions and events are free and open to the public.

For more info: (813) 974-2360

Image at top: Bruce Marsh, *Bay with Snapshots*, 1987, oil on canvas, 48 x 60 inches,
Tampa Museum of Art Collection