



CLEBER STECEI

Finding the light

Finding the Light, the title of Cleber Stecei's summer solo show at Addison Art Gallery on Cape Cod, reflects a common theme linking the artist's new works: a distillation of fleeting moments when light changes something to be

worthy of painting.

"I'm always trying to find different light situations," says the Brazilian artist. "Every object in nature has a point and time, whether a time of year or time of day, when something changes from ordinary to

a subject worthy of painting. I'm trying to find those moments and capture them."

These paintings are a collection of those moments, some of which are pure landscapes, others strictly figurative, and then a combination of the two. "I'm introducing the figure more into the landscape," he notes.

The painting of his 9-year-old daughter Stella by the marsh titled *Interest* epitomizes the combining of the figure and the landscape. *Pigtails*, also featuring his daughter, is an example of his new figurative work. "It's a small painting [10 by 10 inches], but I think it shows that no matter the subject, as long as you find the light—half of her hair is lit and half of it is dark—it's worthy of a painting," says Stecei.

Winter Day—a pure landscape by Stecei—shows long shadows across a snow-covered field. "Finding those moments regardless of the subject is important to have in a painting," he adds.

1



2



3



“Stecei’s intriguing brushstrokes masterfully capture atmosphere and light, drawing the viewer into his world.” — Page McMahon, collector

Stecei approaches his painting with little forethought. Initially attracted to colors or composition, he lets each piece unfold until it’s visually pleasing. He strives for simple, concise compositions with a strong design element. “I always try to give a sincere view of life,” he adds.

Given his method, Stecei hopes collectors come to appreciate that a painting doesn’t always need a concept behind it. “Sometimes it can simply be a visual idea...about a moment in time or a color,” he continues.

Lately Stecei has noticed that he has been painting in a more realistic style, especially his figurative pieces. Having begun his career painting in an abstract style and later shifting to his more recent impressionist mode, these transitions illustrate the artist’s evolving growth and his ability to adapt his technique to different subject matter.

Addison Art Gallery, which exclusively represents Stecei, will host an opening reception for the artist’s show July 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. ●

1
Forbidden Waters,
oil on canvas, 18 x 14”

2
Interest, oil on canvas,
24 x 36”

3
Winter Day,
oil on canvas, 24 x 36”