

REYNOLDS GALLERY

ANDRAS BALITY

Silver Lining

July 9 – August 28, 2020

Opening Tours
Thursday, July 9
11am – 4pm



Hayes Creek with Willow Tree, 2020, oil on canvas, 60 x 78 inches

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Silver Lining*, an exhibition of Andras Bality's recent oil on canvas paintings. The exhibition opens on Thursday, July 9th with an all-day reception from 11am – 4pm. *Silver Lining* runs through August 28, 2020.

This exhibition encompasses a breadth of Bality's paintings ranging in size from 9 x 11 inches to 6 feet in length. A small study of wildflowers hangs alongside a larger painting depicting a worker quietly repairing a buoy in tall Maine grasses. By juxtaposing studies and fully realized paintings, Bality gives an intimate look into his process while establishing connections between different geographies. All of his oils on canvas are based in observation—sometimes captured from life, sometimes spurred from snapshots in his memory and then assembled later. His plein air work begins as a pocket-sized watercolor study or drawing, quickly rendered in a travel journal. Taking the roughly-drawn study back into the studio, Bality reimagines the image into a 10 x 12 inch oil painting, like the ones shown in this exhibition.

The intimate scale of his studies allows the viewer to visualize the artist's process as he gradually builds wet marks into a defined scene, while often scraping off paint later and reworking planes. These fresh interpretations communicate movement and life while preserving a landscape's dimensionality. This sense of space and depth is established through Bality's varied brushwork, which also lends to an emotive quality of each work. Quick, thin marks carve out a forest of trees while softer, rounded strokes create broad, green Virginia valleys. The similar blues of a clear sky and the James River are each expressed uniquely as Bality layers hues and different amounts of oil paint on the canvas. These impressionist marks and characteristic figures reflect Bality's interest in representation and abstraction, culled from techniques of Impressionism, American landscape painting, and Contemporary Art.

Throughout this series, Bality turns to nature as a notion of lightness and hope, deepening his appreciation of Virginia and Maine's variety of terrain, from both areas' range of waterscapes and rolling hills. In a statement accompanying the exhibition, Bality notes:

The search for beauty, truth and the universality of being human – as long as one stays open, curious and positive – I believe inevitably leads to a silver lining.

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Through the act of trying to make good paintings, which involves an idea and enough familiarity with the materials at hand to be able to bring the materials into a visually compelling state of being determines whether I succeeded or not.

Joseph Campbell said that the artist/painter is an alchemist. It's observing something closely, getting down to its essence and then re-presenting the idea, turning it into gold, giving the viewer a possible path to get through a moment, a day, possibly a life.

The paintings in this exhibition are subjects I have focused on for most of my career. I am drawn to the little, seemingly inconsequential things, "Life is every breath, every cup of tea, every flower".

After he completed his undergraduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University in 1986, Bality did graduate work at Cyprus College of Art, Lemba, Cyprus, in 1987. Since then, he has mounted several exhibitions at venues including Jack Blanton Fine Arts and 1708 Gallery, both, Richmond, VA; the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, Newport News, VA; Wall Street Galleries, New York, NY; the Ernst Museum, Budapest, Hungary; and the Ora Gallery, Nicosia, Cyprus, among others. His work is held in collections throughout Virginia, including The University of Virginia Healthcare System, Marsh Art Gallery at the University of Richmond, Federal Reserve Bank, Medical College of Virginia, the College of William and Mary, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, and Markel Corporation. He is a recipient of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Professional Fellowship and a Theresa Pollak Award in Visual Art.

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