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CREATIVE FORCES



Carl and Kristie Bretzke share a passion for painting; each has received numerous accolades for their respective works.

written by jane maiorano, photography by spacecrafting





Carl and Kristie Bretzke share a passion for painting, and both celebrated artists in this partnership have received numerous accolades for their respective works. Home for the fascinating duo is a stunning apartment at the 510 Groveland Avenue building in the Loring Park neighborhood; their elegant abode is a merged double-apartment designed by architect Milo Thompson, with interior design guidance from close friend Andrew Flesher. Kristie and Carl have separate studios in the Traffic Zone Center for Visual Arts, an artist cooperative located in the North Loop neighborhood within the Minneapolis Warehouse Historic District. "Kristie and I are both art lovers and art collectors. We have many close artist friends throughout the country but also abroad. Our home is reserved for our friends' artwork as well as our collected work. Our studios are filled with our own work primarily so we can see the paintings in gallery lighting as we continue to work on them," comments Carl. At home and at work, the Bretzkes feel blessed to be immersed in the culture and vibrancy of their Minneapolis neighborhoods.

Known for psychological portraits and bronze sculpture, Kristie Bretzke has spent the past ten years focused on conceptual realist oil painting. Kristie explains, "People are often surprised when they see my work for the first time. They say I seem like such a cheerful, lighthearted person, but that is not what they see in my work. What I choose to paint reflects many complex emotions, including loss, fear, anxiety and longing, along with some humor and occasionally a political statement. My studio atmosphere is quiet and peaceful. People always ask if Carl and I share a studio...NO WAY...we are on the same floor but at opposite ends of the hall...close enough that I can steal brushes from him but far enough away that I can't hear him. I work alone in total silence all day, which I need in order to focus on my work, whereas Carl plays music at all times and loves to paint with groups of people. He would also point out, accurately, that I'm too messy to share studio space!" Kristie's work is exhibited at Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis.

Carl Bretzke describes his pieces, "I am a realist oil painter. I prefer to paint scenes that somehow evoke a sense of familiarity, sometimes suggesting a loose narrative or combining the ordinary with the sublime. Every month or two I travel to paint professionally in outdoor plein air painting competitions. The balance of my time is spent in my Minneapolis studio producing larger paintings for galleries." Carl attained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Colorado, with a Minor in Fine Art, and a Medical Doctor degree from the University of Minnesota, also completing a Radiology Residency there; he went on to specialize in Interventional Radiology. "Because of my medical career and early family life, my art experience took a vacation for about twenty years. Roughly eighteen years ago I started oil painting and discovered it to be a true passion. After retiring from medicine four years ago, I have been painting nearly every day," Carl reflects.

In 2002, Kristie signed Carl up for a class with Joseph Paquet, a renowned painter recognized for traditional plein air landscape painting. "I studied with him for twelve years. He was my mentor and taught me how to paint and see as an artist," Bretzke comments. Carl's work is currently on exhibition at several galleries including Calloway Fine Art & Consulting in Washington, D.C., Edward Montgomery Fine Art in Carmel, California, and the Grenning Gallery in Sag Harbor, New York.

carlbretzke.com • kristiebretzke.com