



Stina Sieg photo illustration

Stanley Bell stands in the midst of one of his bright, swirling cities. A collection of his recent paintings will be presented tonight at Studio for the Arts and Works in Carbondale.

Join an artistic trip to the big city

By Stina Sieg
Post Independent Staff

CARBONDALE — Stanley Bell doesn't know where his art comes from. No matter — it's still been there for him almost all his life.

Now a painter and metal sculptor, he grew up exploring his creativity in Dallas. After attending an arts high school, he went on to graduate from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Then, instead of taking off to New York or Los Angeles, he headed to the mountains, and worked for Missouri Heights artist James Surls for a short while. At first, Bell thought he'd be in and out of the area, but he soon realized something about the Roaring Fork Valley was calling to him. Now, several years later, he works in Aspen and creates his dreamy, colorful cityscapes at the Studio for Art and Works in Carbondale.

Recently, as he hung pieces at SAW, he spoke about his inspirations and hopes, and what those billowy, urban-inspired pieces are all about, anyway.

Why art? "It's just something I've always loved to do for myself. People have journals. People have outlets. And this is the outlet for me. But, also I'm trying to do something with it too ... like have a show (laughing)."

So, what else are you trying to do with your art? "Well, I just want to get it out there, get it shown."

"I really like the idea of people getting interested in something you do. ... People will have reactions to it; whether it's positive or negative, it's good."

Stanley Bell exhibit

WHAT: Opening reception for "Up/Down," a collection of new paintings by Stanley Bell

WHEN: 6-9 tonight

WHERE: Studio for Arts and Works, 978 Euclid Ave., near the corner of Highway 133 and Euclid in Carbondale

WHY? Be surrounded by images of the city — without any of the traffic.

"You can work on it (art) your whole life. You can always have this. You can always make art."

Describe your style. What are you trying to say? "These are my interpretation of landscapes, really."

"I don't know if I miss being in the city. I don't know if that's what they mean. I'm trying to figure that out for myself."

"With all of these, there are so many stories people can create. I want people to go on a journey with them."

What inspires you? At first, the question caught him off guard, and he smiled and paced as he searched for answers. Later, when it came to him, he responded by e-mail:

"Cy Twombly's art inspires me because it is something I have never seen before, and I get this exciting feeling from it, just like a live band that, when you are checking them out, you really feel this vibe that you are seeing something special. There is no explanation other than the feeling that you get is positive."

"And the sculptures of James Surls, who I was lucky enough to work with in his studio for that short period of time. His work is so inspirational because it is like he is speaking his own language with his pieces. They exist in their own world. All of this inspires because it is one-of-a-kind."

What do you want for your future as an artist? "I just want to continue to have places to show my work, and I want to do that for the rest of my life."

"Deep down, I really enjoy doing it. It's therapeutic. The fact that people like it, that makes me happy. You're throwing yourself out there. You're sharing all this stuff, and, who knows?"

What is the most important thing in your life? "Really, to be happy. Do it on my own terms, though, not what I'm supposed to do."

He described the pressure he sometimes feels to follow convention. Being in rural Colorado, he said, is sort of his chance to let that all go.

"Here, especially, you learn to go on your own path. It's nice to go on your own path — and it's working."

"I feel like there are no rules. I just want to find my own way to be happy."

Cesark, will be hosted at 212 Gallery, 525 E. Cooper Ave. in Aspen. An opening reception will be held from 5-9 tonight. The exhibition runs through March 3. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information call 925-7117.

"Lightning Heart" at CMC

"Lightning Heart," as artist Fred Haberlein of No Name is sometimes called, is also the name of his exhibit coming to the Colorado Mountain College Gallery in Glenwood Springs Feb. 6 through April 2. A free artist's reception will be held at the gallery Friday, Feb. 8.

Kids Room Classics

Put the Sorels away for one night and take the rare opportunity to get a professional shoe shine while enjoying the First Fridays exhibit, "Kids Room Classics." The new exhibit of vintage photographs by Martin Garfinkel will be on display, and a wine and cheese reception will be held while shoes are buffed from 5-8 tonight at the Roadside Gallery, 320 E. Main St. in Carbondale.

ART GALLERIES

Live painting

In honor of Valentine's Day, Majid Kahhak will paint a love/romance-inspired painting live starting at 6 tonight at Kahhak Fine Arts & School, 411 Main St. in Carbondale. Wine and snacks will be served. More info.: 704-0622.

Stanley Bell at SAW

New paintings by artist Stanley Bell are on display now at Studio for Arts and Works, 978 Euclid Ave. in Carbondale. A reception will be held tonight from 6-9.

Time, nature let CCAH artists share artwork

The Carbondale Council on Arts and Humanities (CAAH) presents "Earthtones," featuring oil paintings by Elisa Ahmer and wood sculpture by Pat Winger, opening at 6 tonight and showing through Feb. 29. The CCAH Gallery is at 645 Main St., open 1-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and other times by appointment.

Solo Cesark

"The Redirection of Objects," a solo exhibit by Mark

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7:15 - Beginning Class
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New Series Starts: FEBRUARY 4th
Pre-Registration & Partner not Required
Instructor: Leslie Adams (SWS)

February Events

FEBRUARY 9th
Milonga - 8:30 - 11pm, \$8.00

Location

Masonic Temple, 901 Colorado Ave., SWS
(across from Post Office)

Sponsored by Tango Glenwood
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