

Riding the Wave of Change

By Debbie Tarsitano

As thinking changes, styles move with the change. A change in style approaches like a tidal wave, gradually building up and washing away previous trends. Like all forces of nature, a new trend is unstoppable and alters the landscape. Changes in thinking and the styles that follow them, transform how people live. History shows that great art reflects the times in which it was created because artists possess heightened awareness of their surroundings.

Many people today live in uncomplicated, trouble-free homes which make them more selective about what they bring into their homes. New social and environmental consciousness creates different appetites for art in those homes. Today's personal style is often based on these sentiments. As artists we have the ability to advance our own thinking and create innovative narratives and designs which will flourish in the new landscape. Creating moving subjects, which capture or reflect today's scene will attract attention.

As the scene changes, individual artists may decide they can work in easier, simpler ways and still achieve complex ideas. Hot slumping, adhesives, paints and casting materials allow artists to create multi-media works of art without the stress and expense of investing in complex industrial equipment. Smaller glory holes, kilns, torches and programmers are easy to acquire and use. Improved, more efficient, miniaturized versions of grinding equipment are available and take up less studio space.

Some serious and successful artists have small, manageable studios, with scaled down hot shops. They are able to make big ideas in small spaces. When these artists do need large equipment, they increasingly find it easier and more cost-effective to rent time in public studios. The benefits of working in a public studio are numerous; finding out what is going on, gaining friends, sharing new information and finding helpful co-workers.

Experienced or beginner, we all can ride the wave of change happening now. It is better to be on top, riding the wave, than to be under it. As artists our challenge is to rise above the wave by creating fresh work for new audiences.