

SPOTLIGHT: Margaret Coe
Title of Piece: La Plage Bonaparte #1



El Presenter: Linda Schaefer

Date: February 3, 2009

Title of Piece: La Plage Bonaparte #1, Oil on Canvas

Year created: 2008

Artist: Margaret Coe

Five essential aspects of this work of art:

1. Ms. Coe has traveled to France several times over the last four years where she is inspired by natural environments as well as the structures of the cities.
2. This painting was originally done on location in plain air, or open air, in Bretagne.
3. Her plein air paintings are done in acrylics, then reworked in oils over a number of weeks in her Eugene studio. The on-location paintings are a form of information gathering, and a way of responding to what she sees. With the oils she is "mining the acrylics for more possibility". The oils are more "digested" and interpretive, possibly with changes in the color palette and composition.
4. The painting depicts a rugged coastal hillside, with liberal use of primary colors.
5. Bold lines and colors bring out the distinctive landforms.

Additional information about the artist:

1. Born in Kansas; family moved to Oregon and she attended schools in Salem from 7th grade through high school
2. Studied at the UO under David McCosh and Frank Okada
3. Other influences – C.S. Price, Charles Heaney, Nelson Sandgren
4. Taught at Maude Kerns, LCC and UO
5. Loves the West Salem farm and vineyard country and has done many paintings there
6. over the years; still makes weekly visits to her mother in Salem
7. Also works on themes of women's common experiences; has created many such works
8. in encaustic, the combination of pigment and wax
9. Widely collected and shown regionally and nationally
10. Her work hangs in the Hult Center, Knight Law Center, Lane Public Service Building, LTD, many other public buildings and colleges
11. With husband, artist Mark Clarke, and daughter Karin, own and operates Karin Clarke Gallery in Eugene

Possible questions to use when discussing this piece with museum visitors:

1. What is the first thing you notice in this painting? Why do you think that jumps out at you?
2. What (other) shapes do you see? How do they affect the mood of the painting?
3. There are some very dark and some very light parts in this painting. Why do you think that is? What part do you like the best? Why do you say that?
4. How would it feel to be sitting at the bottom of the painting on the center? At the top of one of the peaks? (sun, wind, smells, temperature, view)
5. Does anyone live in the little house? Who might live there? What do they see from their windows?

Tour Type: Learning to Look

JSMA Collection:

<https://jsmacollection.uoregon.edu/mwebcgi/mweb?request=record;id=17179;type=101#>

