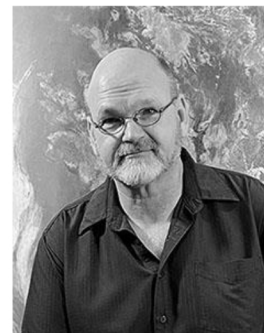




Vince Hron Bloomsburg



Artist Statement

I've been obsessed with painting for a long time. In college, I was fortunate to study with serious artists from diverse backgrounds working within varied traditions. In the late 80's after studying with some notable Neoexpressionist painters in Germany, I moved home to Nebraska and began my career making paintings with an ironic approach that might have been called Neo-regionalist-expressionism which shifted in the 90's to a more sincere approach characterized by an increase of naturalism or realism inspired mostly by my concern for the climate. Interestingly, my unease with the ironic stance of Postmodernism was not a unique response to that historical circumstance. I have recently become aware of a critical theory called Metamodernism that emerged around 2010 which attempts to understand and describe similar cultural currents. For my part, I was drawn to the practice of social critique that had been integral to the early or proto-modernist movement known as Realism, and, since the purpose of social critique is persuasion, I have tried to make work that will engage as many audiences on as many levels as possible. Consequently, I work within the tradition of painting using much of the stuff from that tradition that tends to attract and captivate folks like an imaginatively inhabitable space, rich harmonious color, dynamic rhythm, and the like while at the same time developing images that might facilitate reflection. For example, the painting Looking Up was completed during the COVID outbreak when many people were sequestered, there were supply chain disruptions, economic volatility, and increasingly noticeable extreme weather events that made something as ordinary as shopping seem like an existential threat or a patriotic duty. This sense of isolation and vulnerability are reflected in the painting by the empty mall lot, the turbulent sky, and the disorienting approach to describing space. I hope it captures the mood and brings to mind the urgency and interrelatedness of the climate, economy, and our social interactions.