

Artist statement - Alexander Shundi

Exploring the emotional links between poetry and painting is like picking two different flowers from the same field to form a bouquet, each beautifully paired, complimenting one another other in scent and aesthetics.

The descriptive richness of poetry allows for beguiling intimations of distant but concrete emotional reactions through the discipline of rhythmic word structure, while the collages add to the primary intention of the piece, containing an aesthetic formality of illusion built of color, line, and texture, a symphony for the eye.

They are different instruments playing a united melody in strategic partnership. The visual and the literal inform and shed light on each other, singularly donating a bit of what the other needs, binding in a union of sensations. I don't write a poem to then illustrate it with images, nor do I paint a tableau and then write about it.

They come to life in the womb of fantasy, twins of the same mother. They develop together, one feeding the other, two seeds that unite to create one tree, giving fruit to an idea. Words are drawing, color is adjective and verb, form is sentence structure, rhymes are rhythmic repetition of shapes, punctuation is negative space, time is time, and both breathe in the thick, miasmatic atmosphere of imagination.

They are just tools for making magic. In collage, the textures give recognition to a digital, concrete actuality, and ignite emotional recall and reactions, as smell does. The physicality of it, paired with the illusion of drawing and painting, coalesce to charm the eye into believing, for an instant or forever, surrendering the base knowledge of the lie to the implied power of the truth.

The corporeal presence of three-dimensional textures serves as a bridge between the fugacious land of illusion, and our everyday abiding world of physicality. In poetry, understanding and experiencing the games of words to a point of dynamic, musical visualization, is finding a partner with whom one dances amongst the stars.