

## Jim Walsh painting as J. Charles – *Colors*

### Visual Description

This exhibit by lower mainland artist, Jim Walsh, shows his combination of fine art impressionism and graphic design. Coming from a creative family in Brooklyn, New York, he trained in graphic design, illustration, and sign painting and has developed a unique and eye-catching painting style. His work is included in collections of many galleries and private collections throughout North America. A selection of his work is published as open edition art prints through Art in Motion and made available worldwide.

Jim says, “As a painter I am drawn to the random patterns and colors that I see and feel in our natural surroundings. I’m interested in capturing a specific moment and then reimagining it through the colors that I see as well as the colors that I want to see. When I start a painting I have a vision of the finished piece, but that will often change along the way as the painting will take on a life of its own. I strive to recreate on canvas a feeling that a particular scene conjures in my mind. Each painting is an honest attempt to share that vision.”

There are four double sided panels, covered with a beige carpet-like material, stacked in a line, running north-south. The panel faces are north facing and south facing. The panels are numbered 1 through 8, with 1 being the northernmost panel, 2 being the south facing panel on the rear side of panel 1, and so on, through panel 8 being the southernmost panel. I will describe five of the works. The paintings are mounted one to a panel, with the exception of the diptych on the final panel.

#### **Panel 2 – Garden Glow (11”x14”, acrylic on canvas)**

This relatively small painting packs a big visual interest. The background is dark and textured – navy blue and purple above and forest green below – with some highlights that look like the dappled light that comes through a forest canopy. In the centre of the painting are some orange and yellow flowers that glow as if a sun beam is shining directly on them. The flowers could be California Poppies, with their simple, bright orange petals that face up toward the sun. The insides of the glowers are a brighter yellow colour and have some highlights of white as well. There are 15-20 flowers arranged in a group that arches up in the middle, and has a few solitary blooms stretching up to the left and down to the right. The flower stems are just barely indicated, and are angled to come together in the middle, giving more movement to the overall shape presented by the flower heads.

#### **Panel 5 – Misty Afternoon (22”x28”, acrylic on canvas)**

This painting of a deciduous tree in gorgeous red and orange foliage gives a portrait-style treatment to a landscape. The solitary tree in the foreground is the star of the show with its autumnal leaves glowing in shades of orange and red. The leaves are not distinctly formed in shape, but are mostly roundish. Behind the leaves we can see the dark colour of the trunk and

branches of the tree, the tips of which have already lost their leaves. The colours are lightest orange in a vertical band near the centre of the tree (and centre of the canvas) and as they move away from the centre, they become darker red. Behind the tree is a pale blue sky, and indistinct background trees and bushes that are fairly far away. They balance the bright colours of the foreground tree with some autumnal yellows and muted orange. In front of the background trees is some type of a lawn in a yellowish-green.

#### **Panel 6 – Blue Monday (18”x24”, acrylic on canvas)**

This painting also features a tree with bright fall leaves. In this canvas, we don't see the whole tree but rather a horizontal section of it, from the point of the trunk where the branches start up to about halfway up the tree. The leaves fill the whole width of the picture with the brightest yellow clustered near to the trunk, and radiating out in darker oranges and reds. The yellow leaves also appear to be the closest to the viewer as if the branches were reaching out toward the viewer. The smaller branches behind the leaves make a cell-like pattern against the background. The background starts with a field or lawn in yellow and green, and then quickly moves to a line of bushes and tree silhouettes in dark and bright shades of blue. They are topped by a very light blue sky.

#### **Panel 7 – Crimson and Grey (24”x36”, acrylic on canvas)**

This large, horizontally-oriented painting, uses the same leaf technique seen on the two previous paintings but abstracts it further. The background is a textured grey, that is in gradient from blight grey/white in the middle of the canvas to darker grey at the four corners. The abstracted leaf shapes are in two clumps (right and left) which are joined in the middle. One gets the impression almost of a Rorschach test! There is a great deal of movement in the two clumps as sprays of leaves head out from the centre toward the edges of the work. The orange and reds of the leaves are again used to indicate distance (lighter colours appear closer to the viewer), though in this painting the leaves are less distinct – they merge with each other in parts, and are more abstract in shape. The branches behind the leaves make a cellular or honeycomb pattern offset by the negative space of the background.

#### **Panel 8 – Clouds (20”x32” Diptych, acrylic on canvas)**

This painting is called Clouds, but it also makes me think of fragile white flowers lifting their faces to the sun. The two panels work together as one image divided in two. Across the bottom is medium green highlighted with some light green and interspersed with some brown bits. The brush strokes resemble leaves. Above is sky in various shades of blue. Drawing the eye are white clusters that drift across the canvases. The bright blue from the background is visible through the white – they are semi-transparent. The clusters are grouped in the centre and drift outward to either side. The brush strokes give a feeling of lift and lightness, and they give the impression of fragile white blossoms like poppies, or cherry blossoms, or indeed like soft spring clouds, buoyed by the wind.