



G. DANIEL MASSAD

(b. 1946)

The highly personal pastels of G. Daniel Massad have affected viewers deeply since they were first shown to the public in 1982. Massad, who has degrees in English from Princeton (undergraduate) and the University of Chicago (graduate), turned to art in 1979 and attended the University of Kansas, from which he received an MFA in painting in 1982.

Working in rural Pennsylvania and only in pastel on paper, Massad creates still lifes of objects of personal and historic significance, immobilized by light against dark background. His imagination, which he calls “slow pace”, works its way into our thoughts through Massad’s reverent portrayals. Viewing the works is akin to archeological discovery, like the resurrection of the Roman Forum from the dirt beneath unsuspecting feet. Each distinctive work evokes a stalling of time as stories of the past are recounted and new stories are told through the Artist’s selection of objects arranged atop stone or wooden monoliths “engraved” with encrypted messages by the Artist’s skilled hand in realist technique.

Pulitzer Prize nominee and art critic for *The Hudson Review*, John Loughery observes: “Each image posits more questions that require more looking in an endless spiral...Massad’s art forces us to slow down, is belligerently indifferent to the glib passerby, attunes the eye and the mind to an almost unprecedented level of concentration.”

Joyce Henri Robinson, in her essay for *A Small Radius of Light*, a retrospective of Massad’s work presented in 2018 at the Palmer Museum of Art in Pennsylvania, writes: “The past, filled with memories, occupies the square that dominates the lower half of the image and adheres adamantly to the picture plane. The gorgeous still life, whose verisimilitude takes our breathe away, occupies a shallow band, indicative of the ‘thin sliver of time’ we inhabit in this life, what Massad has described as ‘the beautiful present on the edge of vanishing-or retreating- into memory.’”

G. Daniel Massad’s work was first shown in Kansas at the Kellas Gallery in Lawrence in 1982 and at the Mulvane Art Center in Topeka and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City in 1983. Since this time, G. Daniel Massad has been given solo exhibitions by the Allentown Art Museum in PA (1997), the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (1991), the Huntington Museum of Art in WV (2003) and the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK (2006).

Works by G. Daniel Massad are included in many public collections, including The Art Institute of Chicago, the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Philbrook Museum of Art, the Milwaukee Art Museum, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Most recently, Massad was included in the 2019-20 exhibition, *The Touch of Color*, featuring pastels in the permanent collection at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC.