



ANTHONY MITRI

(b. 1951)

Anthony Mitri's meticulous, life-like charcoal drawings, executed using exceptional concentration, patience and skill, portray the French countryside, urban Paris, New York City, and the artist's native Cleveland, OH. Each charcoal is the representation of a personal, emotional experience bound to the location depicted.

Photographs which Mitri takes at each location help him recall his time spent in such places. These images also serve as guidelines, enabling him to outline the compositional elements of his subjects by way of an under-drawing, after which lighting and the creation of an appropriate mood become his primary focus.

Anthony Mitri recalls being struck by a quote by the English Romantic poet, William Wordsworth, who said that poetry is "emotion recollected in tranquility." Mitri, recognized for his immaculate, tonally rich charcoal drawings in *grisaille*, notes that the weeks and months it takes him to complete a single composition becomes an "extended moment of memory... that seeks to communicate an emotion once felt, as so recollected in tranquility." The absence of the human presence in Mitri's charcoal drawings is "significant to achieving my aim of creating an atmosphere of contemplative quiet, of stillness via settings where the viewer may experience, in a personal way, a quiet moment to reflect on life," Mitri says.

Writing for *American Artist Drawing*, Naomi Ekperigin comments: "Despite Mitri's commitment to realism, the artist primarily relies on the feelings he has about a location when choosing a subject, and considers himself an expressionist in that respect...His emphasis on the mood of a piece can be seen in his lighting choices...Like many artists, Mitri places great emphasis on lighting in a scene, and considers it to be his strongest tool for evoking a certain emotional response from the viewer."

The works in the exhibition are a combination of urban and rural subjects – a silent tunnel devoid of thunderous traffic, the soaring Freedom Tower in NYC (a reminder of life resurrected on devastated grounds), and farm structures amidst snowy landscapes of America's Midwest.

Mitri attended the Cooper School of Art in Cleveland, Ohio and went onto the Athenaeum School of Fine Art in La Jolla, California. He has been the subject of numerous one-person exhibitions both in Southern California and France. Mitri's work has been included in countless group exhibitions, examples of which can be found in the collection of the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts as well as numerous private collections across the country. Mitri was the recipient of two Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grants (2006 and 2013) and is included in the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grantee Image Collection.

Anthony Mitri currently lives and works in Cleveland, Ohio.