

LINDA SACCOCCIO DEFIES THE WHO WHAT WHERE WHEN HOW WHY OF PAINTING

by Mat Gleason

WHO? Linda Saccoccio. Or was the painting already there and the artist here is the revealer?

WHAT? Composition as pure energy, line as the fuse to the center of that energy and color as the explosion of it all.

WHERE? On a flat surface functioning as an illusionistic space.

WHEN? The durational “when” is inadequate to describe the results of a painter’s effort. The painting exists both in the artist’s mind and morphs itself as a response to its own creation. Time does not unfold in an orderly manner in painting. It can exist fully formed at the beginning and dissolved of all intentions at its completion. Linda Saccoccio captures both this process of construction and this embrace of destruction in service of getting to completion.

HOW? How can the brush of a painter simultaneously surrender multiple experiences as it lays down its weight upon the canvas? When it comes to Linda Saccoccio’s painting we are reminded that “how” is a word that asks for a mechanical solution. There is no basis in pictorial engineering to expect a paintbrush to deliver color, line and energetic compositional structure in the same stroke. And yet there it is. And so the mechanical is barely a realm of consciousness in which to discuss Linda’s painting; hers contains explorations of energy, improvisation, color saturation, all areas with little need for the rigid structure that answering any “how” question demands.

WHY? Why does the brush of Linda Saccoccio deliver all it does at once when it caresses the surface of a picture with its material kiss? When “why” is asked, the deeper root of the word is “what for”. Philosophy therefore is a query gauging usefulness. Art should not be subjected to measurements of practical value; painting especially is at its best when any talk of function is the furthest ideal from the subject being pondered or discussed.

Linda Saccoccio embraces painting as a ritual of affirming its own existence. Hers is an art free of any tropes that fit into compartmentalized categories, an abstraction liberated from convenient definition.