

STEVE ALDERTON

Dates: June 18 - August 30, 2010

Opening Reception: Friday, June 18, 2010, 6-8 pm

Location: "homebody"
715 Eighth Street, S.E. Washington, DC 20003
www.homebodydc.com

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I chose to exhibit two series. The first fits into the category of abstract expressionism. This type of painting is often raw, layered, active, boldly colored and emotive. I often think of Picasso's line that he spent his whole life learning to paint like a child. In a way, abstract expressionist paintings have an adult/child quality. I used all manner of utensils from kitchen spatulas to fingers to brushes to oil sticks; as well as a full range of colors to freely convey my emotional expressions, and with freedom – joy.

Inevitably in an abstract series a language develops. Here, the language pits geometric shapes against shapeless markings; constructed versus deconstructed. I like the energy that derives from the contrast. This language might serve as an apt metaphor for the contrast that exists in Washington between the uptight and the laid back.

The second series is also expressionistic. Here, I explored the ways in which emotive markings can convey the essence of a portrait. Francis Bacon described some of his paintings as looking like the substance that remains after a person or animal or object has moved through his canvas. In the same way, I'm intrigued by the idea that minimal, expressive, painterly strokes can convey multiple emotional aspects of the human persona.

Additional work can be viewed at www.touchstonegallery.com - Go to artists/Alderton.

Steve Alderton