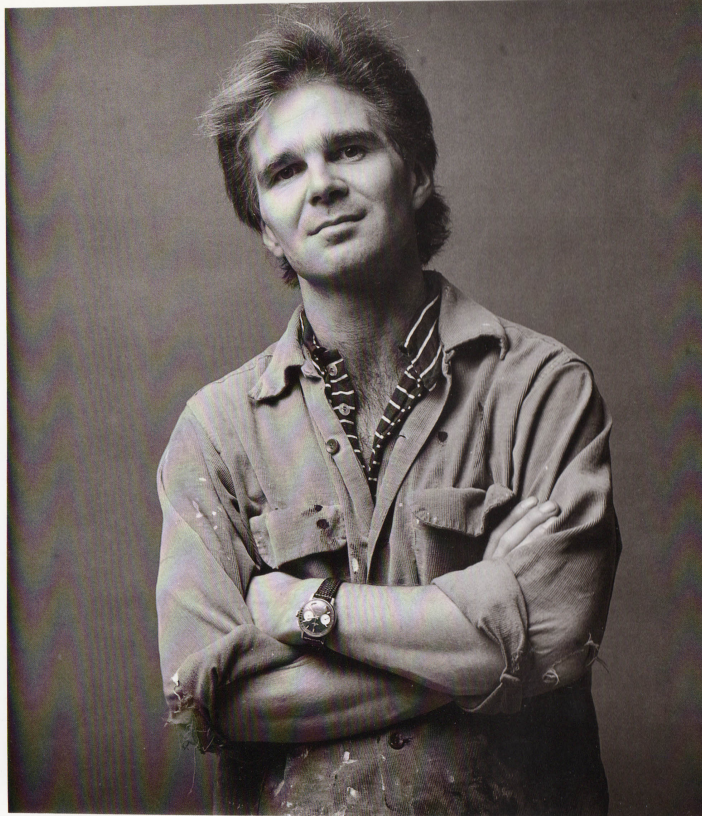


50 Northwest Artists



A CRITICAL SELECTION OF PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS WORKING IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
BY BRUCE GUENTHER • WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ARTISTS BY MARSHA BURNS

Jeffrey Bishop



Much of the work of the last few years has been about personal projections in time and space.

Since childhood I've had repeated dreams of floating in various mediums. These are images and feelings of suspension and extension where weights and distances are in a fluid continuum of extreme speeds and juxtapositions in space. These, I suppose, became metaphors for locating self in the space of the world, physically and cognitively. For some time, I've also had repeated, darker dreams of nuclear holocaust.

Recently, abdominal surgery left a profound impact on me, including disturbing images. I remember right after sedation being wheeled down narrowing corridors, seemingly faster and downward, lights overhead flashing by dimmer in a darkening tunnel. As I was losing consciousness I felt outside of myself, floating: it was hard to locate my own fear.

Concerning the paintings, these lines from Wallace Stevens's poem "Sea Surface Full of Clouds" have stayed with me: "... a too fluent green/Suggested malice in the dry machine/Of ocean, pondering dank strategem." Words about problems of vision become dissonant and subversive in images of submersion. A periscope is needed.

Mirrors. Images that evoke, I hope, sea, and feelings about space, but are essentially non-referential and abstract. Words become equally abstract, suspended, obstinate. I am interested in an image that is a mental complex of sensory

projections. A physics of phenomena, perhaps. Personal trajectories mapped on a schematic of causality.

My father was a physicist. I'm lousy at physics, and all

kinds of mathematics except geometry. I prefer it this way, like lines from Beckett grappling with inertia in a topology of syntax.

Mostly I am interested in making images that might be

as provocative as they are, I hope, attractive and aesthetic. Dialectics, one image provoking another.

Projections Series #5 • acrylic on canvas • 1982 • 61" by 96"

