

Babouinist Manifesto –

January 1st 2022 by founder and creator M. Harrison-Priestman

'Babouin + ist Manifesto'

Painting for Babouinists is quite simply an exploration into the self, cleansing one of the constant human pollution that surrounds and bombards us in our daily lives, performances and relationships. Everything in life and therefore the universe is just about energy without personality and nothing else. People continually tell me that painting is subjective, expecting me to agree with them and are quite surprised when I tell them they are talking bollocks. The choice of genre, for example, a preference for abstract over landscape painting is subjective, but I firmly believe the quality or success of the work can be viewed and judged objectively. Capturing an enduring presence is the key to great works, after all it is visual communication. The picture becomes a giant battery where the fabric of the canvas is impregnated with the artist's energy, captured and stored for as long as it exists; emitting this energy like a power station releasing its volts for all to use and see. We have already proven that if one neutron is made to affect a second one and then that second one is then placed on the moon, it is still affected by the one on earth. Then is it not too far a stretch of the imagination to think that a great artist has the facility or ability to release his own energy or presence down his arm, through his hand and into the colour minerals he is using as a painting medium.....and this energy is then captured within the weave of the canvas and picture plane? Resulting in a form of pictorial alchemy. After all, are we also not all made up of the same electrons, neutrons, and protons. Like in African and all tribal art, the works that are created are viewed and revered as objects of great power and influence, as magical talismans. So to sum up, a painting language must stand or fall on its own visual merits, like a piece of music, it either touches us or it does not.....there are no half measures; great art is alive and always kicking. Now there is a fashion and tendency to buy and paint art by the metre, like buying carpet; as if the larger the work is, the more gravitas it has. Maybe we should create a new term or ism to describe this type of work as 'Carpetbaggerism-Painting' or 'Carpetbaggerism Artist'. Or collectors choose painting's that are photorealistic, valued by how many hours or months it takes to execute and the size of brush that is used, regardless if the picture has a true presence or not. We used to call large or oversized painting as Mural or Fresco work, but in the past it was painted by artists who knew what they were doing, had the talent and all the relevant tools at their disposal to create a truly spectacular and powerful vista. Today's arrogant attempts are like Albert Speer's architecture, it bludgeons the viewer into submission, not through its artistry or presence, but by its sheer scale. Belittling and intimidating the viewer in the sanctimonious gallery space, thus curtailing the dialogue and interaction a viewer has when encountering a so called work of art. Great paintings do quite the opposite, they draw the viewer in and expose them to an on-going visual journey, enlarging and developing their imagination, visual awareness and vocabulary. On the contrary, more often than not, the mark-making in this carpet painting is too flaccid and the compositional elements unresolved, in fact most pieces would benefit from a drastic reduction in scale and ambition and even then they would still be weak and unsuccessful. One only has to look at Rembrandt's 'A Woman Bathing in a Stream' in the National Gallery in London to see how powerful and

successful a small painting can be. Or take a look at the best work of Paul Klee, the scale of work is perfect for the language. The delicacy of the colours, compositions and narratives work in perfect harmony and balance with each other. Today an artist would be allowed by the establishment to take a Klee like image and enlarge it to such extent, it would lose all sense of artistic credibility, sensibility and integrity. But when one is buying Art by the metre, who cares, it ends up as mere decoration or the indulgences of the uninformed and financial speculators. And for the photo-realists, so what if it took them 6 months to paint with a small sable brush...who cares. The third type of collected work one often sees exhibited can best be described as poor graphic design or a vulgar form of objet d'art.....I won't even bother to talk or waste any more time on this....the blind leading the blind comes to mind.

Footnote :

Babouinism is against groups so you cannot join it, as it remains an ethereal and solitary creature, exploring a creative never ending journey into the unknown. You have two choices, either to Bark or Yak, What is it going to be ?
Fellow Babouinist's either Bark loudly in anger and or Yak with great passionate pleasure at the following list.

Babouinists Glossary

The Babouinist vocabulary has 5 vowel sounds = 5 words

Bark = Violently disagreement/against

Yak = Passionately Support/For

Grunt x 1 = Painting/Drawing/

Grunt x 2 = Sculpting/Creating

Grunt x 3 = Having Sex

Bark at - Art Fairs

Bark at - Large scale flaccid artworks bought by the metre

Bark at - Conceptual Art

Bark at - Political Correctness

Bark at - Corruption

Bark at - Hypocrites

Bark at - Religion

Bark at - Left Wing Fascism

Bark at - Liberal Fascism

Bark at - Right Wing Fascism

Bark at - Gender Politics

Bark at - The WOKES

Bark at - Human Rights Fascism

Bark at - Psychologists

Bark at - Health and Safety Fascism

Bark at - Anyone who uses the word 'awesome'

Bark at - The idea that everyone is an artist
Bark at - The relabelling of professions
Bark at - Mawkish indulgence
Bark at - Celebrity
Bark at - Facebook
Bark at - Excessive mobile phone use
Bark at - Bourgeois private views
Bark at - Curators who stand in front of paintings for selfies
Bark at - Works of art that have been animated as a marketing device for major museums
Bark at - Vulgar museum marketing products, like van Gogh handbags, Monet umbrellas etc.
Bark at - Abstract art
Bark at - Museum time slots
Bark at - The dilettantes
Bark at - People who use tablets in museums and galleries

Yak at - Figurative Art
Yak at - Studio Open Days
Yak at - Figurative painting and sculpture
Yak at - Eccentricity
Yak at - Visionaries
Yak at - Life drawing
Yak at - Life painting
Yak at - Plein air painting
Yak at - Artistic financial independence
Yak at - Art History
Yak at - Artistic criticism
Yak at - Life
Yak at - Passion
Yak at - Comedy
Yak at - Tragedy
Yak at - Mortality
Yak at - Sexual preference and freedom amongst consenting adults
Yak at - Freedom of thought and speech
Yak at - Babouinism
Yak at - Artists controlling their own sales
Yak at - Artists putting on their own exhibitions/shows
Yak at - The term old-school
Yak at - Letter writing
Yak at - The art of conversation
Yak at - Libraries
Yak at - Books
Yak at - Free museums
Yak at - Wine, spirits and beer
Yak at - Good food
Yak at - Good company
Yak at - Getting drunk

Yak at - Love

Yak at - The Artistic creative journey

Yak at - And develop your artistic vocabulary

Yak at - And enlarge your Visual vocabulary

Yak at - Swearing

Yak at - The fact that you will make enemies as well as friends in your life

Yak at - The view that artists should be self-determining beings

Yak at - And use the word Bollocks when confronted by ignorance and arrogance