

Ellis Nicholson Gallery

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use of color is vibrant, his compositions are kinetic with energy, commotion, almost audible. His love for France is made palatable in this new collection of work.

Nellsmith offered the following statement: "Upon my first visit to France, I felt more as if I were catching up with an old friend that I had not seen in a long time rather than meeting someone for the first time. It was new, but it was somehow familiar at once. I found something in me, personally, and as an artist, in France - as if a missing part of me had been waiting there for me to reclaim."

"I am attempting to paint an experience more so than to record the appearance of a particular location. Paul Klee once said, 'one eye sees, the other feels'. I do a lot of work on location while in France, but these on-site drawings and paintings are essentially a search for how a particular place affects me emotionally, psychologically. I am acutely interested in draftsmanship, composition, color, but for their expressive qualities."

"Drawing and painting on location will 'emboss' the experience of being present (in the midst of the subject) on one's memory and in one's soul, but even more draw-



Work by Bruce Nellsmith

ing and painting in the studio is necessary to fully exhume that experience," adds Nellsmith. "I am fortunate enough to live in a romantic world, but it's not entirely of my own making; it's more like a working relationship that I have with my environment. I return to France each year to work further on this relationship and continue my feeble attempts to share this through a painting."

For further information check our SC Commercial Gallery listings or call the gallery at 843/722-5353.

38th Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition Takes Place in Charleston, SC - May 26 - June 10, 2017

The *Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition* enters its 38th year of presenting the work of South Carolina artists in a free open air venue the entire community can enjoy in downtown Charleston, SC. More than 80 of South Carolina premier artists set up their 'art camp' for 16 days of the Spoleto/Piccolo Spoleto arts festival, from May 26 through June 10, 2017, at Marion Square, located at the intersections of King, Calhoun and Meeting Streets in this historic city.

The *Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition* is believed to be one of the longer-running outdoor fine art festivals in the US, running 16 days. Visitors have a special experience interacting directly with the artist and their work, many of whom do painting demonstrations throughout the day. Once an artist is accepted in this highly competitive show they may return each year. This has made for wonderful and lasting friendships between artists and also their collectors. More than 10 of the artists have participated in all 37 years of this event.

There are many exciting challenges of having such a long-running outdoor event. Over the years they have experienced flooding, tropical storms, bats, bugs, heat waves, rogue sprinklers, unwanted overnight visitors, fallen trees and more. During the slow times during the week, you'll find artists passing the time with ping pong or bocce ball games. Artists created a fun Red Solo Cup race on the last day where creative homemade costumes have priority over finish times. There are slow times during the 16-day event and practical jokes of fellow artists have become a



A wide view of many artist's tents in the park.

art lover that comes to through the show. All of us absolutely love to share and inspire others through our art. It all makes [a] fun and truly unique experience."

"Since most artists return year after year, we all have developed a great camaraderie and friendships. We have watched each other's kids grow up and it really feels like a family," says Scott Penegar, a 12 year participant with his wife Kaye - the only husband/wife artists team. "This art show undoubtedly has the highest quality of art of any show we participate in nationally. It is my favorite time of year. Yes, 16 days can be a bit grueling but we have a blast. It's like art day-camp for grown ups."

"The artists are resilient!," says Honor Marks an 18 year participant. "Over the years booths have collapsed in rain storms, blown over in tropical force winds, an artist went into labor, a wedding, the irrigation sprinklers went off inside booths, and tents have had uninvited overnight guests. We have far more good times than challenging ones and with the return of beloved clients and friends year after year and the 16 days roughing it, behind the scenes there's definitely a summer camp feel to the show."

The *Piccolo Spoleto Outdoor Art Exhibition*, part of the 2017 Piccolo Art Festival (May 26 - June 11), is produced and directed by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs. Focusing primarily on artists of the Southeast region, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival is the perfect complement to the international scope of Spoleto Festival USA, its parent festival, and its 500 events in 17 days transforms Charleston into an exhilarating celebration of performing, literary and visual arts. Piccolo Spoleto's traditional program offerings include visual arts exhibits, classical music, jazz, dance, theatre, poetry readings, children's activities, choral music, ethnic cultural presentations, crafts

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A view of one of the tents at Marion Square Park, favorite pastime.

Here's what a few participating artists have offered about the event:

"Artists often don't have the opportunity to interact with their customers directly because we sell through galleries," say Joyce Harvey, a 2 year participant. "It is an incredibly rewarding experience to have that personal connection with every

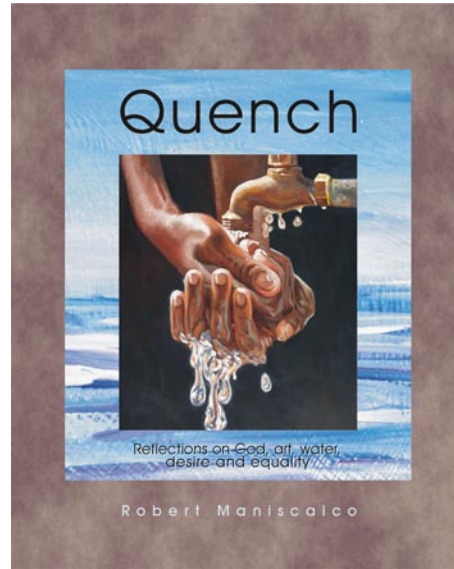
and film.

For further information visit (<https://www.piccolospoleto.com/>). You can fol-

low this event on Facebook at (<https://www.facebook.com/piccolospoletooutdoorartexhibition/>).

Charleston Artist Robert Maniscalco Offers *The Quench Project* in the Form of an Exhibit, Film & Book

Charleston, SC, artist Robert Maniscalco has created a series of paintings called *The Quench Project (TQP)* inspired by his vision trip to Haiti in November 2014. He has also written a big, full color book, called "Quench, reflections on God, art, water, desire and equality" and produced a short documentary, "Out of Darkness", which can be viewed at this link (<http://maniscalcogallery.com/quench-project/>). The film is also available free on Amazon Prime.



"Quench, reflections on God, art, water, desire and equality" book cover

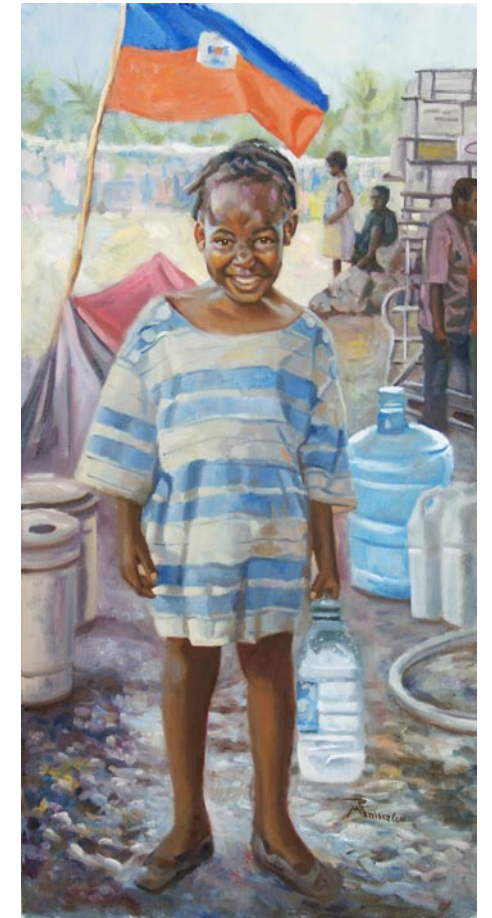
The Quench Project explores alternatives to societal ideas about beauty, tragedy and survival. The theme is the resilient nature of humans to rise "out of darkness." Maniscalco, who is a survivor of child sexual abuse, has dedicated his artistic life to telling the stories and celebrating the triumph of human spirit; specifically, our capacity to turn great adversity into victory. These are stories each of his fellow beings share in common, in our creative journey of survival.

"Throughout *The Quench Project* my goal has simply been to give a face to the 'faceless hordes'. When seen as a wash of humanity it is easy to lose sight of the individual. When we can understand and connect with 'the other', they are far more likely to become us. My intention in traveling to Haiti was not to document the misery of the masses, or even to find a few representative faces to win sympathy in the States. My goal was to find out, through my art, how we the people, one person at a time, and in a million different ways, are finding a path to survival."



Work by Robert Maniscalco from Haiti

Following a successful Kickstarter campaign Maniscalco used the seed money to create/frame his 17 paintings, write his book and make his documentary short film. The vision is that *The Quench Project* will continue to grow and evolve, continuing as an exhibition in a variety of venues in several states, where people from all walks can come see the work in person and become part of the conversation. Maniscalco has taken *TQP* into churches and community centers, spreading the good mission of light and love. *TQP* has exhibited at The North Charleston City Gallery, the Kairos Gallery (St Andrews Church-Mt Pleasant, SC), The Greater Flint Arts Council, The Buckham Gallery in Flint, MI, and most recently, at the Coastal Community Foundation, in Charleston. *TQP* is up at One Love, 478 King Street, second floor, till May 1, 2017. *TQP* has also evolved to include recent



Work by Robert Maniscalco from Haiti

courtroom sketches for the Dylan Roof Trial, which was completed in January of 2017, in Charleston. This trial and Maniscalco's sketches were really more about the Emanuel 9 and the resiliency of their survivors than about this misguided, hate-filled young man. *TQP* is about people overcoming great adversity through actively pursuing faith, hope and love. There is an exhibition of the over 80 trial sketches in the works, as well as a possible book.

In the tradition of the Social Realist movement, the project's goal is to raise awareness for societal issues in Haiti as well as the US. Maniscalco doesn't avoid biting social and political commentary. Water shortages, spirituality, economic inequality and racism are all part of his focus. He has created a body of 17 paintings, mostly of Haitian subjects. More recently, he has added subjects from Rwanda and Flint, MI. His ongoing series, "The Faces of the Lowcountry" also are an extension of the mission of *TQP*. A portion of sales will be donated to Water Mission and to the Bread of Life Orphanage in Jacmel, Haiti.

Since 1980, Robert Maniscalco's exquisite commissioned portraits and fine art have become part of over 850 distinguished private and public collections throughout North America. To know about the artist, you must understand his painting method is built on the classical painting traditions of Rembrandt, Velazquez, Hals, and Sargent. Like these artists, Maniscalco explores the use of light and shadow as a means of creating mood and achieving character expressively in his subjects. Born in Detroit, MI, in 1959, he is the son of internationally renowned portrait artist Joseph Maniscalco, with whom he apprenticed during the early 1980's.

Maniscalco moved to New York City in 1986 where, in addition to his fine art, he also worked as an actor and director on numerous stage, film and TV projects. He returned to Detroit in 1997, after a three year portrait residency in New Orleans, LA. In Detroit he founded the Maniscalco Gallery, which showcased many local and international artists. As host of *Art Beat*, the critically acclaimed and popular PBS series on Detroit Public Television, he explored the creative process with his celebrated guests. He has created two DVDs on painting portraits, called *The Power of Positive Painting* and published a novel called *The Fishfly*, a semi-autobiography about the artist and his struggle to resolve his dark past.

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