

Jonas Gerard - Art in the Square's 2007 Artist of the Year



"I'm very touched, and deeply grateful," says Jonas Gerard when asked how he felt about being

honored as Southlake's Art in the Square 2007 Artist of the Year.

Born in Casablanca in 1941, Jonas is self taught artistic genius who will bring his Mediterranean heritage with him as he once again shows his wares at Southlake's Art in the Square. Even though Jonas thoroughly enjoyed his time in Southlake last year, he knows that 2007 is "going to be a great show!"

Working predominantly with acrylics on canvas and digital giclees from his Miami Beach studio, Jonas is well represented in public as well as private collections throughout the country. Most notably, his 1975 historic painting of the US Bicentennial entitled "We the People" is on permanent display at the Smithsonian Institute.

His work brings to life the tradition of abstract expressionism, Jonas Gerard emerged fifty years ago into the art scene with work which has currently evolved into a mesmerizing explosion of color, contrast and movement. And like the great contemporary Masters, such as Willem DeKooning, Jackson Pollock, Hans Hoffman and Franz Kline, Gerard has found his very own style of abstraction which is continuously growing and developing.

Gerard believes in the art of true Expressionism. In the past he has explored



"The Ocean of Love Cannot Be Stopped"

other styles, including representational, figurative and portraiture, but his abstract work has held true over time. In all his exhibitions whether in Chicago, Atlanta, D.C. or Southlake's Art in the Square, one can feel the strength his paintings evoke. His splashes of color, whether painted or thrown on, create a spirited canvas and composition not easily forgotten.

Jonas says "As an artist, it's important for me to give the viewer the opportunity to become one with sensitivity. This art will reveal a truth that conveys an existence that is unique

within our very soul. In my painting and mixed media techniques I open the door to time and space, allowing me to abstract from the primitive and contemporary states,



On behalf of the American People, President Gerald R. Ford accepted Jonas' "We the People" at the White House in Washington, DC in 1975. This painting, considered our Nation's Bicentennial portrait, is now a permanent part of the Smithsonian Institute's collection.



as well as from moments of my personal life."

When asked what he likes most about Southlake's Art in the Square Jonas replied "The open space, Southlake's town square is a beautiful, excellent location for this art show." Jonas is celebrating his 50th year of outdoor exhibitions and admits that he enjoys interacting with the multitude of art lovers he encounters across the nation. He says, "In Southlake, the crowd is very receptive to the energy coming from my work and one art dealership in particular was very impressed. Last year, ARTIZEN Fine Arts approached me and we struck up a great friendship. Since then they have been representing me in their gallery as well as publishing my work as large digital replicas on canvas. I have never met a more honest and sincere art dealership. I'm looking forward to my first one man show, in the Metroplex. Opening night is May 11th, from 5pm to 9pm. Located at their gallery, 1215 Dragon Street in Dallas." (For more information visit www.artizenfinearts.com/)

Jonas is a true personality so make your way to his booth and to all the other fine artists on display at this year's art extravaganza. See you there!

