

A Statement by the Artist

Viventis potuit Durarius ora Philippi Mentem non potuit pingere docta manus. (“Durer could paint the features of Philip from life, but his skilled hand could not paint his mind.”)

Thus, Albrecht Durer, two years before he died, after a long and successful career in painting, signed the portrait of his friend Philip Melanchton and expressed the limitations of representational painting and frustrations with it. For indeed, representational painting can deal only with man’s physical features and the physical world around him, can lyricize these, can dramatize them, underestimate and overstate and exaggerate these. It cannot deal with the emotional life of man.

Artists have always aspired and felt the need to deal with the inner life of man, that is, his emotional world and its pinnacle, human spirituality. To fulfill this need, there arose at the beginning of this century a new kind of painting called non-objective art. Its foremost heroes are Mondrian, Malevich, and Kandinsky.

I am an artist of this persuasion: dedicated to non-objective painting. Within this category I have made some original contributions and succeeded in forming the elements of a personal style. My paintings are based on units organized into groups and movements and rhythms which attempt to parallel the flow of human emotional life.

Mark Baum, 1967