Conrad Mieschke

"The quite intensity of nature"

A German-Canadian Hyper-Naturalist whose watercolours, acrylics and egg-tempera paintings translate Ontario's changing seasons into meticulous, contemplative images.

Born in Poland in 1938 to German parents, Conrad Mieschke grew up in Germany. He drew and painted from an early age, but family and economic expectations initially steered him toward bookbinding.

During a three-year apprenticeship as an art bookbinder and restorer of historic books, he won silver and gold medals in nationwide competitions. Further study at Munich's Graphic Academy culminated in a Master Bookbinder certificate in 1963.

Mieschke emigrated to Canada in 1965 and spent five years with a Toronto publishing company before devoting himself fully to painting in 1970. His work explores southern Ontario's rural landscape and the changing moods of its four seasons.

Our gallery presents a collection of winter scenes, memories and rural Ontario, Canada, from 1979 and the 1980s.

"Painting is my means of communicating my most intimate impressions of nature." CONRAD MIESCHKE

"Here all four seasons are equally beautiful. I get excited by the changing moods of each season, by the separation of sun and shadow, by the shapes of discarded farm implements, by an animal stealthily observed from a distance, or the feeling of peaceful loneliness that bare trees impress on me".

Working in watercolour, acrylic, egg tempera and drawing, Mieschke combines close observation with a sensitivity to rural landscapes and seasonal light. His meticulous images begin with walking, weather and prolonged looking, returning in the studio as concentrated recollections of sound, temperature, light and stillness. This is the spiritual current of his work....to Mieschke : **Realism as attention, nature as encounter.**

"Precision opens toward quietness, solitude and a sense of connection with the natural world of wilderness"

"My favourite season is probably winter. I love the snow, the intense contrasts of the time, stormy skies, strong shadows, the contrast of earth and snow, and moodier feelings created by fog or mist. I need to get into things, the smell and feel of the shaded dampness where leaves have fallen, the sound of the wind or the quiet. When I'm back in my studio I try to put that feeling — or put myself — into the painting. I try to become what I am painting. The subject matter or the location of a particular painting could have been recorded a year ago or a week ago. That's not important, what's important is that I spend one day a week in the outdoors recharging myself. The "discharging" comes over the next six days in my studio".

Today, Conrad's work is widely exhibited in Canada and collected worldwide. He still lives and works in the Brampton, Ontario, townhouse he and his late wife Deedee purchased in 1974. Their son Paul was born in 1976; nineteen months later, Deedee died in a car accident. Since then, Conrad has devoted himself to painting and raising his son, finding his place in society through creativity, compassion and humanity.

"I live at peace with myself and with the world around me, and I strive to keep it that way".

Arte-Wallhoff is honoured to exhibit Conrad Mieschke's work and thanks Mrs B. Mieschke for her trust.

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