



"Inner Glow" by Vera Bobson

Watercolor, 22" x 30"

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the

PALETTE

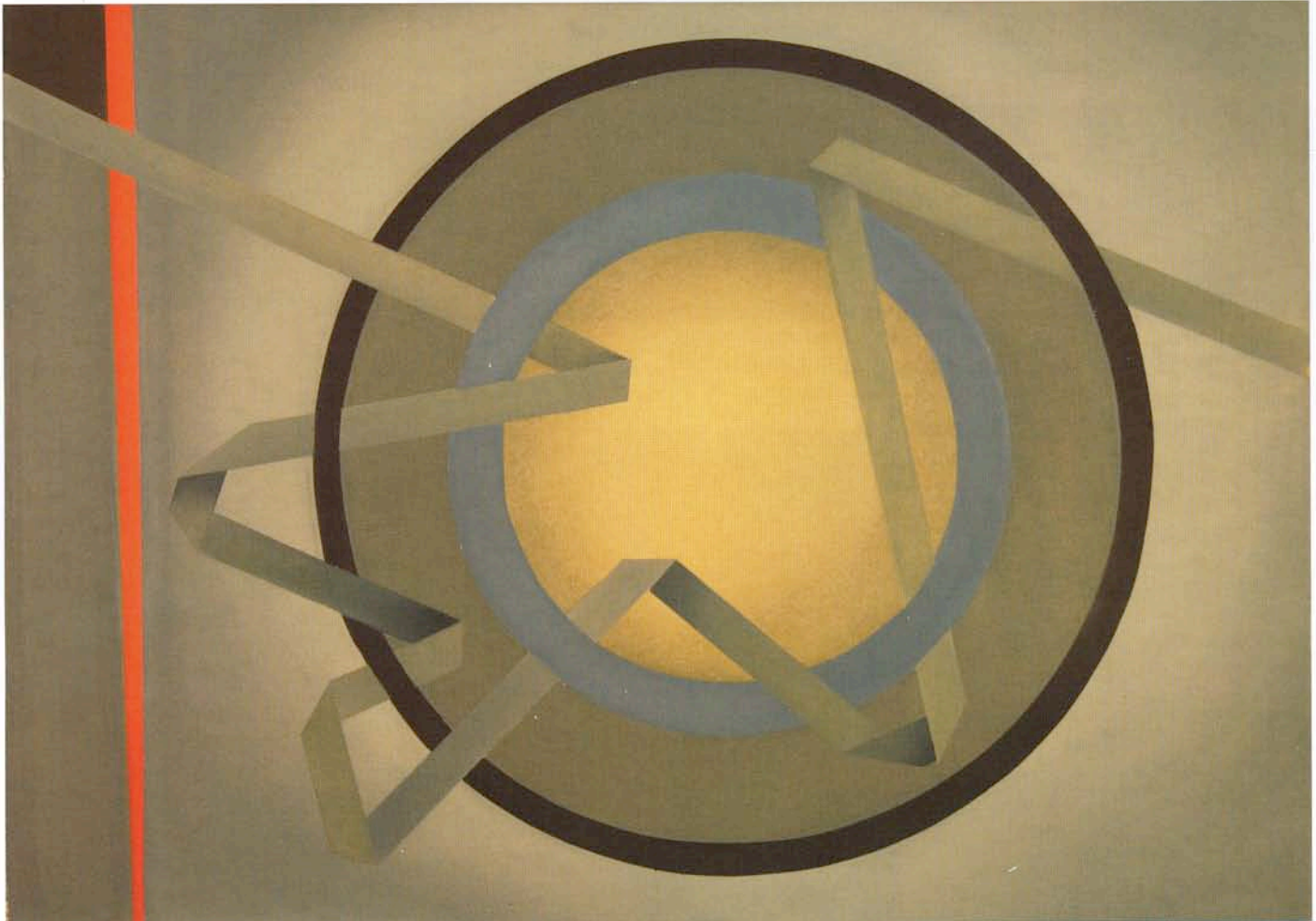
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Produced by Christopher Schink and William Lawrence

Canadian artist **Vera Bobson** employs a style that is

CLEAN, PRECISE, & PERSONAL

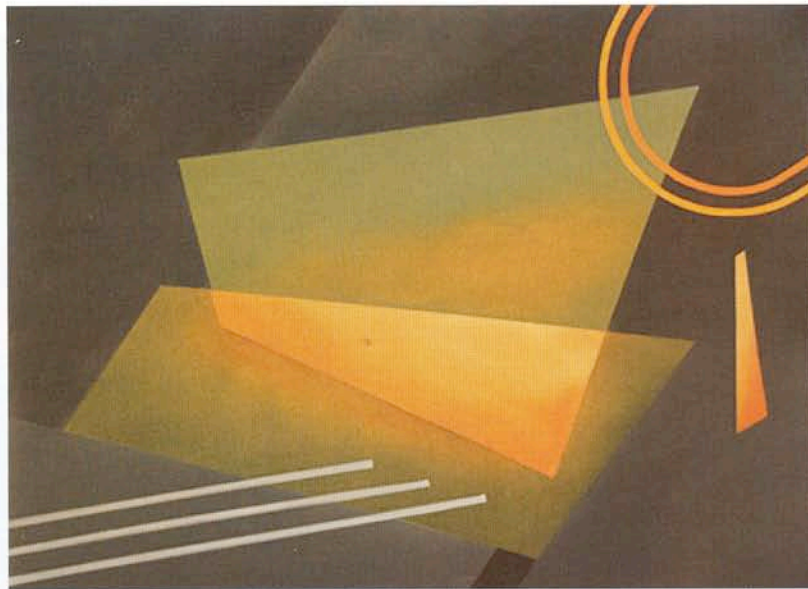
by Martha Wakefield



WHACK, SPLASH, AND SCRATCH is the preferred approach of many of today's nonobjective painters. Dirty colors, wobbly lines, awkward shapes, and a chewed-up surfaces are de riguer for this band of artists. They never saw a straight line or a sharp edge they liked.

Canadian artist **Vera Bobson** doesn't work that way. There's nothing casual or uncalculated about her work. Her paintings are thoughtfully organized and carefully rendered. The results are stunning.

In and Out
22" x 30"
watercolor



Inner Glow
22" x 30"
watercolor

... the ideas for the next painting come from the one she is engaged in.

Focusing on shape

Bobson works in series as the ideas for the next painting comes from the one she is engaged in. While the landscape has been her inspiration, she is now relying more on a non-objective approach. She thinks less about the subject matter and more about ideas that stimulate her creative voice.

She has discovered the quadrangle—a plane shape with four angles and four sides, like a square or rectangle. But Bobson likes to extend, twist, and distort this shape. The arc of the circle is also featured in her series, moving the viewer's eye along and unifying the composition.

Painting out loud

When it comes to painting Vera Bobson is not quiet. She wants her works to shout! And shout they do with originality, freshness, and power.

Bobson initially studied watercolor by learning all the conventional rules. Then she met Christopher Schink, who told her, "There are no rules." From there her art took a 180-degree turn from stylized painting to abstraction: eliminating unnecessary shapes and focusing on the negative space and spatial ambiguity—elements she finds particularly intriguing and whose shape she finds equally interesting.

Quadrangle III
30" x 22"
watercolor



Red Line
30" x 22"
watercolor

Razor sharp

While hard edges have always been a component of her work, Bobson now prefers razor sharp edges. For these she uses FrogTape, which produces a crisp edge without tearing the paper. She is also exploring the possibilities of lines, creating straight, curved, or zigzag shapes that bend, fold, retreat, or push forward.

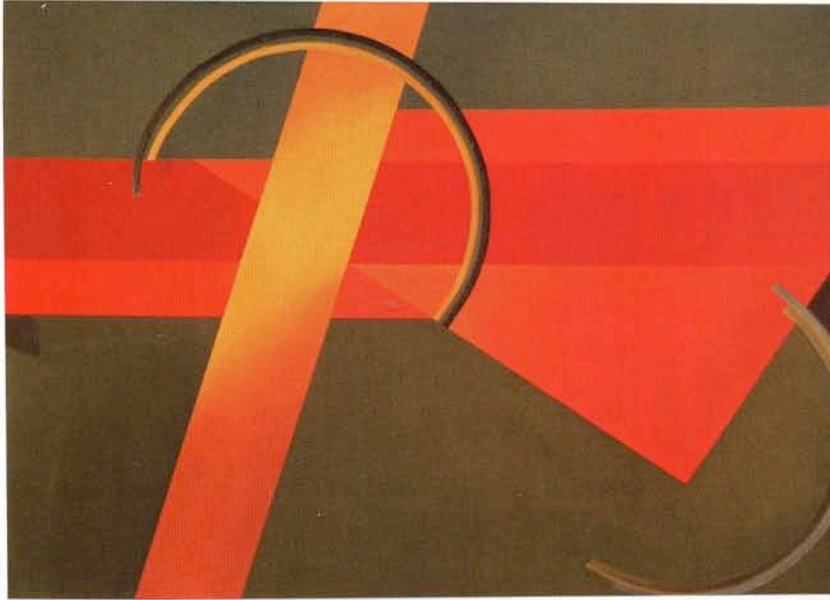


Color is key

Bobson continues experimenting with color. She is now showing more white of the paper. Her recent colors are more grayed but still rich and vibrant.

She maintains her distinctive gradations of color within her bold shapes (not so easy to do in watercolor). To achieve this, she prefers badger brushes, of pure, natural bristle, allowing her to smoothly blend the paint within a shape from a light to a dark color. Her approach requires 300 lb. cold-press paper because it can support a lot of paint when applied with very little water and isn't easily torn by tape.

Searching
30" x 22"
watercolor



5th Dimension VI
22" x 30"
watercolor

5th Dimension V
30" x 22"
watercolor

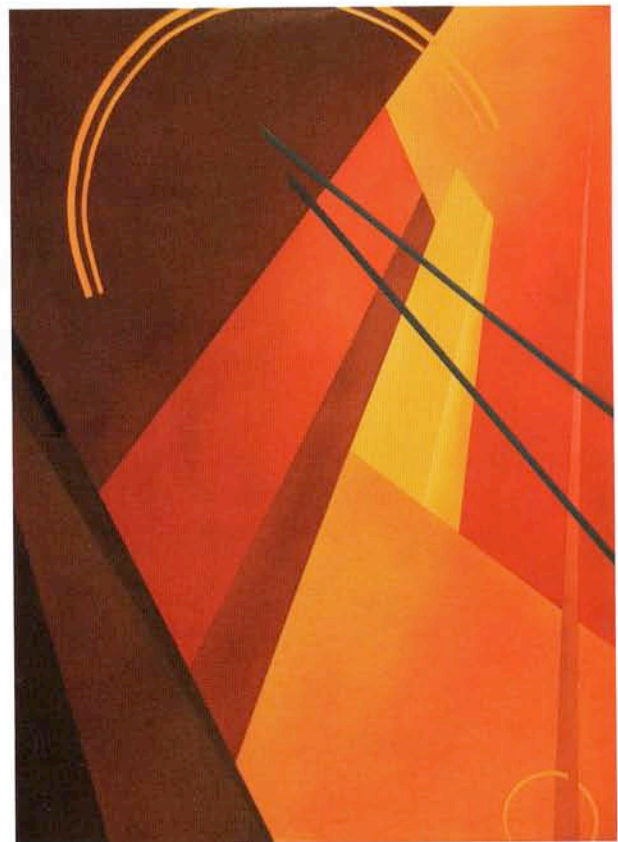
“Painting feeds my soul.”

Staying fresh

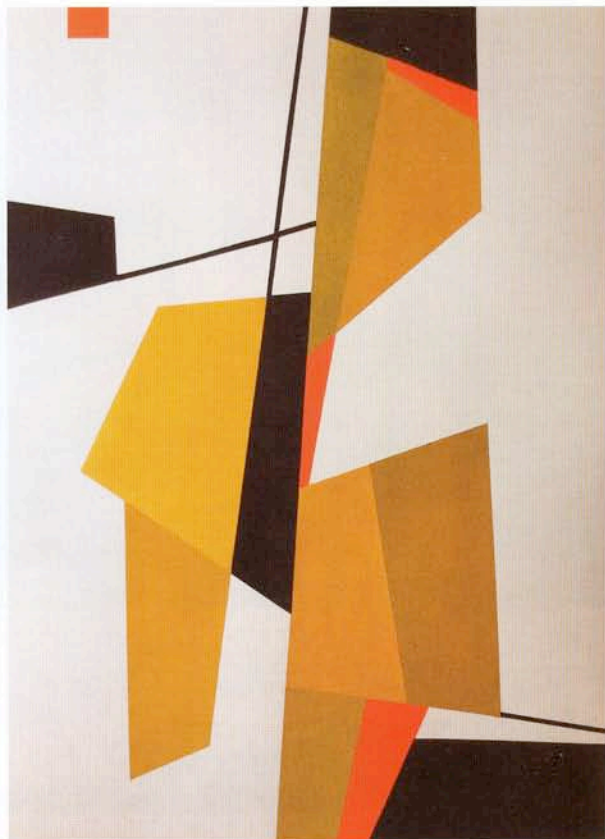
Bobson sketches out an initial idea but makes changes as each painting progresses. For her, the beauty of watercolor is its freshness. To maintain that quality of freshness, whether it's a shape, a color, or a gradation, she only works on an element once. Clearly, her technique has to be organized and thoughtfully rendered.

Influences

Kazimir Malevich (1879-1935) was the first artist she discovered that worked with geometrics, and he remains a major inspiration. “Malevich went against the popular style at the time and I think that took a lot of courage,” explains Bobson. For her Malevich’s *Suprematists’* philosophy of *art for art’s sake*—that an artist was not required to record a visual depiction of his subject matter—is a motivation to paint. Art can depict an “artistic feeling.” “Plus,” she says, “painting feeds my soul!” Other artists she connects with are El Lissitzky, Auguste Herbin, Lionel Feininger, and the abstract work of Canadian artists: Lawren Harris, Doris McCarthy, Lionel Fitzgerald, and Takao Tanabe.



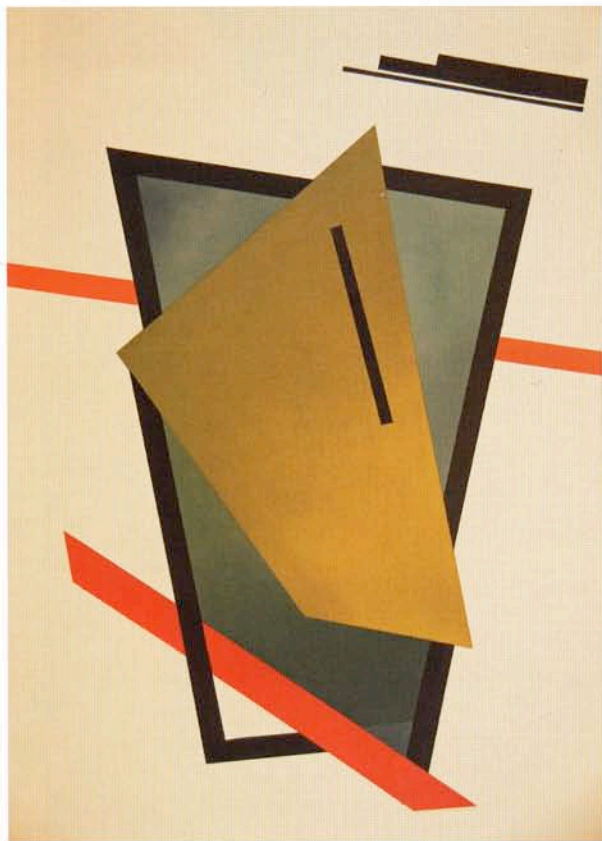
Fourteen Plus Three
30" x 22"
watercolor



Goals

Like Malevich, Bobson continues to challenge herself in her work, with an attitude that rules should be challenged. Color, shape, and edge are the graphic tools she employs to express her creative voice.

“My goals in painting remain the same: to question the traditional, explore my vision, use color and shape expressively, and to be fearless,” states Bobson. Her work shouts with a distinguishing vitality, and personal involvement. Is it time to raise your voice with your painting? ■



About

Vera Bobson started painting in 2004, and she continued to study with well-known local and international watercolor artists over the years. Now she is an award-winning artist, showing her paintings locally and internationally. She is a signature member of the Toronto Watercolor Society and an elected member of the Ontario Society of Artists, the Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolor, and the Color and Form Society. To see more of her work, visit her website at www.verabobson.com.

Two Quadrangles
30" x 22"
watercolor