

Nashville Arts

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MAGAZINE



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Writer

Still in my twenties, I was working in advertising on “Mad Ave” and living on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. One day, browsing in a neighborhood art gallery, I found myself drawn to a large canvas leaning against the rear wall.

Never very attracted to abstract art before, I spent the next 90 minutes transfixed by the bright hues, energetic brush strokes, and—to my eyes—whimsical spirit the artist had left behind. Much to my complete surprise, I purchased the untitled acrylic, spending more money than I had ever done before except when buying a car.

I fell in love with Stabilito’s work that afternoon; I love it still, and it inspires my smile each day. The canvas has even become a barometer for whether new friendships will last. If an individual enters my home for the first time and is captivated by this piece, I know we will stay in touch. I could say this painting is my favorite type of *social media*, too!



Joseph Stabilito, *Untitled*, 1989



PHOTOGRAPH BY SHERI ONEAL

ARTIST BIO

Joseph Stabilito

Joseph Stabilito’s work is in many public and private collections in New York, the United States, and Europe. As well, his work can be seen in the upcoming Batman movie being released in 2015. Stabilito first displayed his large-scale paintings in the windows of Bonwit Teller, an upscale ladies’ department store in Philadelphia. That was followed by the first solo exhibition of his work at the Sande Webster Gallery in 1982. He moved to New York the following year, as his paintings were being featured in the windows of Bloomingdale’s. That made a particular splash, attracting a fan base of notable designers and collectors to his work. Saks Fifth Avenue and Paul Smith prominently put his colorful paintings in their own windows. Stabilito settled into the burgeoning East Village art scene, while having gallery shows in Italy, Germany, and across the United States. His work was shown at the prestigious Navy Pier Show in Chicago, and the very first Miami Art Fair. Stabilito continues to paint today from a studio on Canal Street in Manhattan and is constantly exploring new directions for his work. His latest paintings are being shown at the New York Design Center. For more about Joseph, visit www.josephstabilitopaintings.com.