

CCTC&G

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The Art Issue



Gary Komarin

An abstract painter takes the road less traveled in Roxbury

Describe your art. My paintings travel on their own roads in many ways. I am there to assist and guide. I work without premeditation and follow what is in front of me. The trick is to know when to stop. **Who or what influences your work?** Nearly everything. It all goes into one big soup. **Where are you finding ideas for your work these days?** I watch everything in a sense—from a repaved road with new asphalt meeting old concrete to a jerry-rigged door in an elevator stairwell, or the radiant smile of a passing stranger in an Italian café. I like to look at the edges of things, to the *non*-event rather than the event. **What part of your artistic process do you enjoy the most?** Painting. I like when the canvas is on the floor and I'm moving around it rapidly, big brush in hand letting paint flow and drip and colors collide. I create chaos and then pull back and have a look. I like to get lost in the painting. **Do you listen to music while you work?** I like listening to some really good music (everything from Bach to Bob Dylan, Ella Fitzgerald, Philip Glass and Sara Vaughan), taking a moment to sit and look at what I have been painting, to slow things down and breathe. **What time of day are you most inspired?** In the late afternoon after all the morning busyness is out of the way. **What is the most indispensable item in your studio?** My long-handled brushes, my music—and of course lots of paint, mixed to creamy consistency like melted ice cream on a hot summer day. **What is the last show that you saw?** Rothko in London.

Stroke Of Genius (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP) Gary Komarin moves "Rue Madame in Red" in his Roxbury studio. (OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM) "Dirty White, Tapping Reeve" is crafted from water-based enamel on canvas.

Let Them Eat Cake "Cake Stacked, Red on Creme" leans against a painted stairway (THIS PAGE). See Resources.

