



"Rocky Dry Riverbed. Arizona" acrylic on canvas, 48" x 36" 2023 by Judy Hodge (1958 -)

Once again, Judy, you have stopped me in my tracks. This exquisite piece is a fine example of contemporary expressionism, merging the traditional subject of landscape with a vibrant palette and dynamic brushwork that is emblematic of modern vitality. You have conjured a symphony of color and form, where the juxtaposition of warm and cool hues creates a pulsating energy that seems to dance across the canvas. Your unapologetic boldness captures the viewer's gaze and refuses to let go!

In this work, the conventional perspective is abandoned, leading to a fascinating abstraction of space. The mountains and sky, rendered with swirling patterns and stark contrasts, evoke the tumultuousness of nature, yet there's a harmonious balance achieved through the rhythmic placement of shapes and layers. The bold outlines and the thick application of paint add a tactile quality that invites the observer to not just to view, but to feel the landscape.

This work becomes more than paint on canvas—it is a dialect of urgency and immediacy. Each stroke, a word; each color, a sentence in the story of nature's perpetu-

al flux. It is a narrative that draws you in, speaking of the sun's blaze and the shadow's caress—a conversation not just between the elements in the painting but with the viewers themselves.

Moreover, it speaks a contemporary language of urgency and immediacy. There's a sense of movement implied in every stroke, suggesting the ever-changing state of nature and, by extension, the human condition. Your choice of colors is not just aesthetically pleasing but also intellectually stimulating, creating a dialogue between the elements of the painting.

Here then, is a Christmas gift to all - a metaphor for the dance between human emotion and the natural world. It whispers of the complexities that define our era, capturing the collective consciousness of our time. Through a lens both deeply personal and grandly universal, you have crafted a statement that echoes in the halls of the zeitgeist. This piece asks us to consider the role of art as a mirror, and as a beacon, in reflecting and influencing the human experience.

**John Earshen, Professor
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