

A Door Left Open: John Dilg Artist Reception, September 8 at St. Ambrose's Catich Gallery

Written by Terry Rathje

Tuesday, 05 September 2006 22:40

- [Buy OEM Autodesk AutoCAD Electrical 2010 \(32 bit\)](#)
- [Buy Nero 11 Platinum \(en\)](#)
- [Buy Adobe Premiere Pro CS4 \(de,en,es,fr,it,ja,ko\)](#)
- [99.95\\$ Microsoft Expression Web 2 cheap oem](#)
- [Buy OEM Flash CS4 All-in-One For Dummies](#)
- [149.95\\$ AutoDesSys Bonzai 3D MAC cheap oem](#)
- [Buy Panic CandyBar 3 MAC \(en\)](#)
- [Buy OEM MacPhun Intensify](#)
- [Discount - Autodesk AutoCAD Structural Detailing 2012 \(64-bit\)](#)
- [Buy Adobe Premiere Pro CS5 MAC \(de,en,es,fr,it,ja,ko\)](#)
- [Buy Cheap EFD HD Tune Professional](#)
- [Discount - Microsoft Money 2007 Home & Business](#)



Viewing the work of an artist who has been making art for decades is like looking at an iceberg. You see the little part that is showing but not the hidden part, which is years of study, making art, learning about oneself, and inventing.

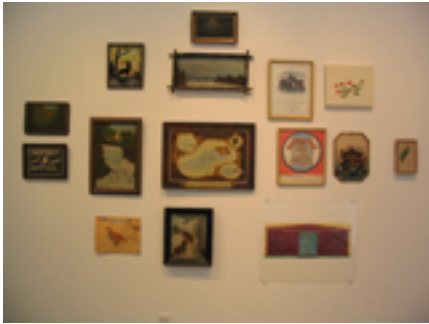
The work of John Dilg, on exhibit at St. Ambrose University's Catich Gallery through September 29, may seem simple at first glance, but that is only the tip, the obvious part. Part of the reason is that as one paints for a long time, one begins to consciously and unconsciously shed the unnecessary. What remains is the essential. Dilg's work is simple, spare, and verges on being a visual language, like hieroglyphs or ideograms. There is a subtle humor about them, and the dozen small paintings spread around the room feel like the characters or phrases of this visual language.

Dilg's palette is one of muted golds, greens, and turquoises, and objects are drawn with spare black lines to represent scenes and objects that beckon us to recall such glimpses or situations from our own lives. The humor arises from the innocent style in which they are rendered, and also from the chance remembrances represented, such as the "Slow Children Playing" sign that is translated into the icon of a running boy in knickers, who is every child and childhood itself.

A Door Left Open: John Dilg Artist Reception, September 8 at St. Ambrose's Catich Gallery

Written by Terry Rathje

Tuesday, 05 September 2006 22:40



The artist has included a rare insight into his work in this show: source and inspirational material that is grouped together on one wall. It's a good idea to look at this before viewing the show, and then again afterward to see how the images left their influence, both directly and indirectly.

The grouping includes such diverse items as signs, maps, old advertisements, and "outsider" paintings. (Often called "primitive" art or "naïve" art, and closely related to folk art, "outsider" art is made by a person who has little or no art training, but simply has a desire to make art with no thought for sophistication of expression. Think of plywood cutouts of old ladies bent over pulling weeds or whirligigs or graffiti.)

The collection of influences is rustic, naïve, and nostalgic, and suggests a secondhand-store Americana aesthetic. Dilg says of his source material, "Don't read the associations between the sources and my paintings too literally; the sources are, collectively, an intimate space that I like to inhabit, and no one image ever successfully survives, in total, the transport to a painting."

In addition to the source material, we experience a drawing on canvas (without a title) that contains many of the images from his paintings gathered into one larger composition, establishing the ambiguous relationship between this composite drawing and the individual images. It bears a similarity to a hieroglyphic story incised on an Egyptian tomb, and is just as likely to raise questions about its meaning.

