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Extending a Field of Vision

Georg R. Douglas' nature-inspired paintings are directly informed by his career as a scientist.

Irish-born artist Georg R. Douglas, who has resided in Iceland with his wife and family for more than four decades, received a Ph.D. in earth science in 1973. He was an educator for 35 years until a recent retirement. It is this training and educational background that inspires his artwork.

"A couple of years ago I did some semiabstract paintings inspired by subglacial volcanic eruptions, which are

well known in Iceland. In these, I made use of my knowledge as a geologist, as well as representing the eruptive forces," says Douglas. "I incorporated elements at the microscopic and molecular scale, using collage shapes prepared from my own computer images. I found this to be inspiring and productive, and since then, I have expanded this work to include the living world of flowers and plants."

Douglas' flower paintings include not

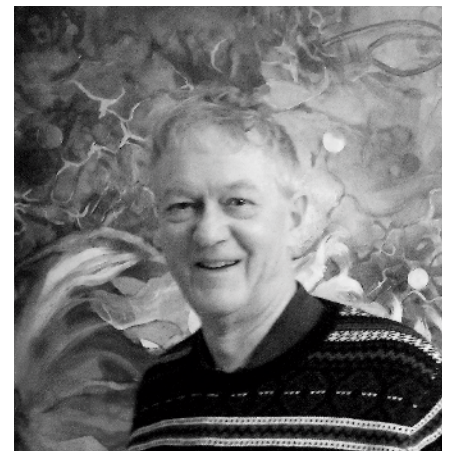
only features seen from the surface such as stems and petals, but also elements visible only from a microscope or molecular model such as plant tissue and protein. "Including these elements greatly extends our field of vision and senses and how we experience the beauty of the subject matter," he explains.

Along with the inspiration from his professional experiences, Douglas' florals are inspired by "the subtle and often fluctuating light of the short Icelandic summer." Ideas also come unexpectedly.

"In my flower paintings, I also like to obfuscate, jumbling and muddling items,



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and upsetting the expected order of things," the artist says. "There is no real foreground or background. To me, this seems to be more typical of the natural world. It also leaves something to the viewer's imagination."

Douglas adds that he likes his paintings to speak for themselves and radiate strength, whether it's from light, color or something else. "As a result, I think most of my work could be described as semiabstract, while individual paintings reflect styles as varied as representational, cubist and abstract expressionist," Douglas remarks. "I find it most natural to paint on canvases of at least [3 feet] in width or more."

In addition to his nature themes, Douglas



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also paints works inspired by Irish dancing. "Doing paintings inspired by Irish dancing began as a personal challenge, for although it can be somewhat stiff and technical, it nevertheless exudes a noisy, brash and exciting atmosphere, sometimes intense and competitive, sometimes wild and carefree," he shares. "It is this atmosphere that I try to reproduce and create on canvas, rather than exact dance moves, and this is what I want my viewers to feel when they look at the paintings." ●

Douglas was the Second Prize Winner of International Artist magazine's Challenge No. 85, Florals & Gardens.



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- 1 *Life of Flowers*, oil on canvas, 39 x 39"
- 2 Artist Georg R. Douglas.
- 3 *Inner Light*, oil on canvas, 39 x 39"
- 4 *Inner Fire*, oil on canvas, 39 x 39"