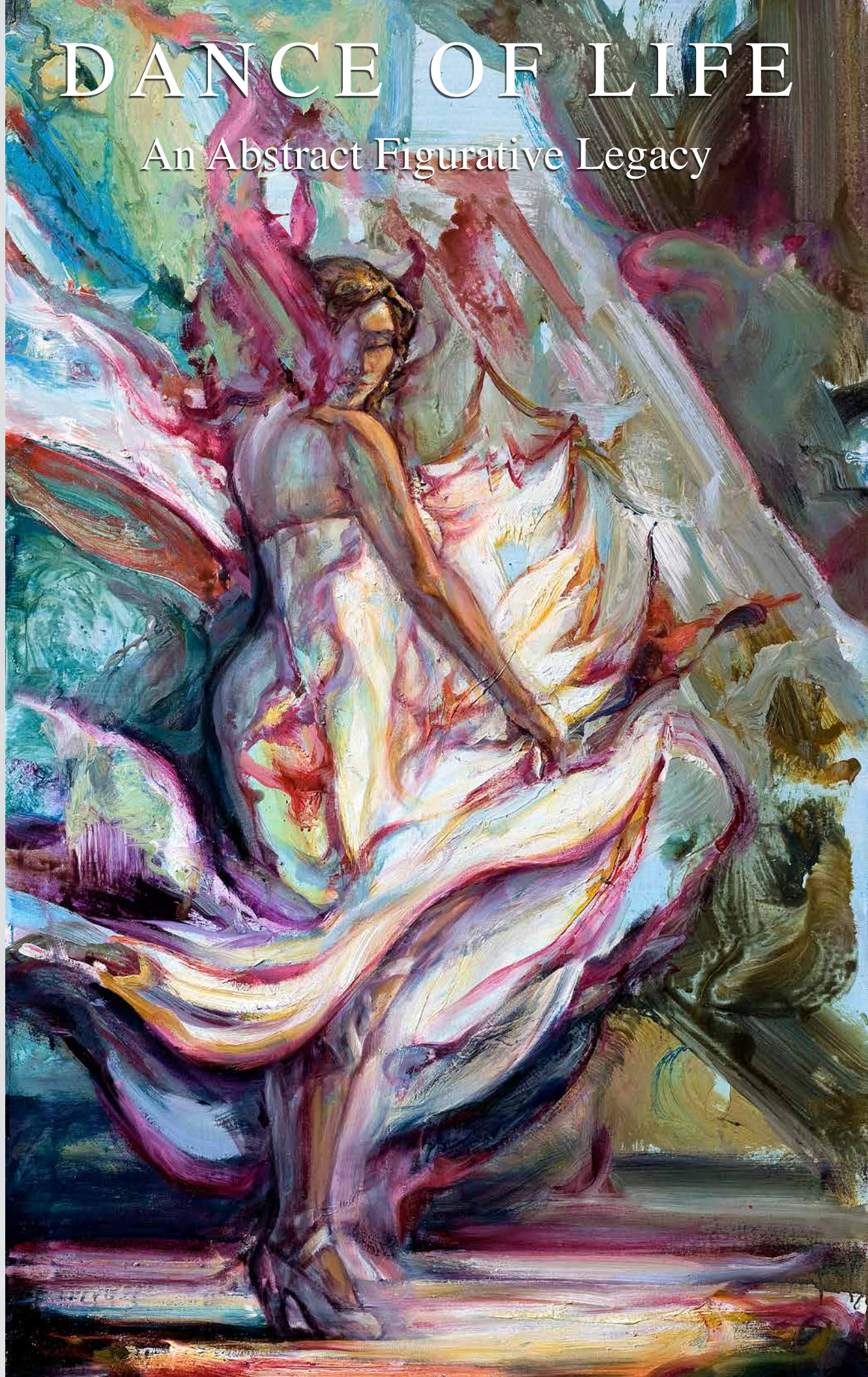


DANCE OF LIFE

An Abstract Figurative Legacy





Stuart Yankell, *Dance of Life*, 40" x 60", Acrylic and Oil on Acrylic Panel, 2017 (above); *Return to the Garden*, 60" x 40", Acrylic and Oil on Acrylic Panel, 2012 (cover)

"Take in the pulse of our own separate being, which know your blood, your grain, your boundless star. We are of the same growth, it is in our roots that we are one."

— Pablo Neruda

The exhibition "Dance of Life : An Abstract Figurative Legacy" is a midcareer retrospective of the artist Stuart Yankell and his artistic lineage, one that follows in the great American tradition of the Wyeth and the Calder families. Spanning more than a century, the visions of Stuart Yankell, his father Samuel Yankell and his godfather Leon Bibel forge a profound and enduring aesthetic language. All three artists have created extensive bodies of work that are both strikingly modern and rooted in history. Remarkable and uplifting, "Dance of Life" is the story of an extraordinary artistic inheritance.



Leon Bibel, "Adam and Eve", Wood, 48" x 32", 1989

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Throughout the exhibit one sees shared themes of artistic approach and meaning—from figurative abstraction and revolutionary use of media to notions of universality and the underlying vital force coursing through human existence. Each artist's work celebrates the infinite dance of life that is our humanity. Forms and figures are woven into communal compositions or entrancing rituals of music and dance. For each artist, the motif is merely a platform upon which to discover and harness the energy of the work, while exploring the larger ideas of growth, beauty, love, archetypes, and the passage of time. There is a shared desire and striving to unite the individual with the whole of creation, recalling the wisdom of the great Yoga master, BKS Iyengar, who said, "In the beating of your pulse and the rhythm of your respiration, recognize the flow of the seasons and the throbbing of universal life."



Samuel Yankell, *Tango Geometry*, 28" x 14" x 7", Metal, Surgical Tape and Epoxy, 2017



Stuart Yankell, *Cafe Blue Planet*, 48" x 78", Oil on Linen, 2017



Stuart Yankell, *Universe - One Song*, 42" x 68", Acrylic and Oil on Acrylic Panel, 2017

STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

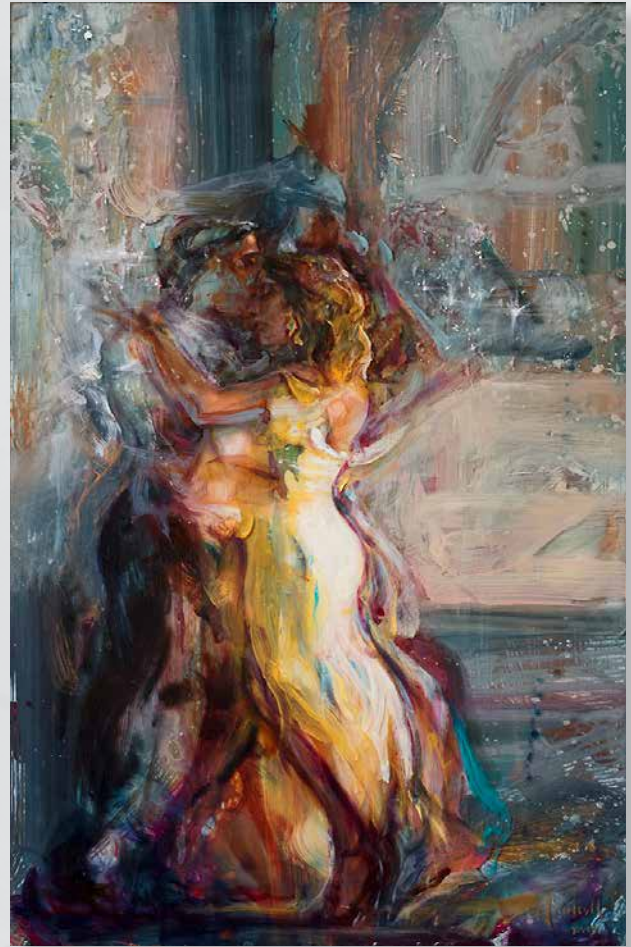
The selections from the three artists display a fascination with figurative abstraction honed over three generations. Through both their mature and experimental works, each artist explores what the Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí called “the creative relationship between the sensuousness of nature... and the austerity of geometry.” Their works echo with the pulse that beats between movement and stillness, revealing an even higher plane of balance and equilibrium. With influences as diverse as Caravaggio, Sorolla, Cezanne, Picasso and Rivera, the works look to fuse numerous opposing forces, while at the same time aiming for simplicity, a reduction to essence, and an instinctive, improvisational approach.



Leon Bibel, *The Four Seasons - Summer*, Wood, 48" x 32", 1987

EVOLUTIONARY DIRECTIONS

The exhibit highlights the spirit of collective learning and growth seen in the evolution of each artist's work in tandem with the technology and pace of their individual times. Through the use of experimental photography and elaborate digital software, Stuart Yankell weaves the compositional foundation on which he builds and shapes his vision. Additionally, Yankell has collaborated with top conservators and scientists in developing a groundbreaking medium that enables him to paint on both sides of a clear panel, and thereby combine the aqueous, ink-like abstraction of acrylic with the chiaroscuro of oil. Along similar lines, the elder Yankell, building on his scientific roots, has created fluid figures made with wire and wood bases, surgical tape, epoxy and liquid metal coatings, while Bibel pioneered an inlaid wooden relief format with such virtuosity it became a cutting-edge fine art. Through its themes of lineage and innovation, this exhibit reflects a deep artistic fertility nurtured through enduring bonds of family and friendship.



Stuart Yankell, *Tango Eternity*, 39" x 24", Acrylic and Oil on Acrylic Panel, 2017



Samuel Yankell, *Up From the Sea*, 18" x 26", Oil on Wood, 1968

“Dance of Life: An Abstract Figurative Legacy” portrays the lineage and influence of the painter Stuart Yankell and the outstanding legacy of his pioneering family of American artists. It is particularly poignant in this age of interconnectivity and instant gratification to acknowledge their century of shared dedication to the ancient language of visual art, a tradition they have handed down to one another as have artists through the ages.



Stuart Yankell, *Negotiating Fate*, 15” x 24”, Sumi Ink on Paper, 2009



Stuart Yankell, *Ballet Blossoming*, 60” x 40”, Acrylic and Oil on Acrylic Panel, 2015



Leon Bibel, *Why*, Wood and Oil, 48” x 32”, 1983



Stuart Yankell, *Ode to Creation*, 48” x 78”, Acrylic and Oil on Acrylic Panel, 2012

ARTIST BIOS

STUART YANKELL

Yankell’s work celebrates life and the common fabric of humanity. Combining abstraction with a kinetic approach rooted in classical lighting and form, he embraces historical convention while seeking to expand the language of art. For nearly four decades, Yankell has painted a multitude of musical and dance forms, as well as figurative themes based on a broad range of universal settings. He has traveled to nearly twenty countries, and his works are developed through a combination of on-site painting, studio work with live models, and the forces of instinct and imagination. “The goal of Stuart Yankell’s work,” author William Abrams writes, “is to convey something essential about our existence that is at once both truthful and affirming.” Using large brushes attached to bamboo poles, his strokes are broad and visceral, yet at the same time precise. He has long been a student of Asian culture and the Martial and Healing Arts, and has sought to bring something ceremonial to his artistic process, analogous to a dance or fencing ritual. Moving between realism and abstraction, Yankell’s painting is about seeing, depicting both the focus and periphery of



Stuart Yankell, *Winged Lion of Peace*, 32” x 24”, Oil on Wood, 2007



Stuart Yankell, *Open to the Beauty*, 30" x 48", Acrylic and Oil on Acrylic Panel, 2015

natural vision. Seen up close, the works are entirely abstract, undulating with textural variations. At a distance however, the images crystallize and come to life in the mind of the viewer. The art critic Burton Wasserman said "seeing Yankell's paintings with your eyes is to soon feel them refreshing your heart and mind as they produce visions of joy at the center of your being."

Yankell was trained in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the University of Pennsylvania and the Frudakis Sculpture Academy. He also studied in Italy at Temple University, and has taught painting and art history at the university level over the course of his career. Yankell is also known for his portraiture, and has been commissioned to paint a variety of business, political and academic figures for public and corporate collections, as well as children and families. Recent collectors in the entertainment industry include Dave Matthews, Carlos Santana, Ravi Coltrane, Natalie Merchant and both Wynton and Branford Marsalis. Stuart Yankell's work has earned place in the vanguard of contemporary figurative painting and has been displayed in museums and galleries throughout the world.



Stuart Yankell, *E = Times Squared*, 32" x 24", Oil on Wood, 2011



Samuel Yankell, *Through the Ages*, 26” x 34”, Oil on Wood, 1969

SAMUEL YANKELL

During the course of Samuel Yankell’s distinguished scientific research career in industry and academics, he also became increasingly immersed in painting and sculpture, developing a profound body of work that continues to evolve to this day. Growing up on a cattle farm in South Jersey, Yankell was a creative youth, but it was his adult friendship with Leon Bibel that propelled him into the arts and sowed the seed of an extraordinary artistic legacy. Bibel became a paternal figure for Yankell when he lost his father while completing his PhD. So much so that the younger man eventually took on the name Samuel Leon Yankell. Yankell’s work, informed by scientific methodology, began with experimental paintings that traverse a diverse range of 20th-century styles including pure abstraction, seascapes and figurative works. Sam also delved deeply into sculpture and over six decades he has worked in a myriad of styles and media. Most recently, this lifetime of aesthetic experiences has poured into a series of iconic sculptural works exhibiting tremendous geometric freedom and vitality. The integral cohesion of rhythm, energy, geometry and stability found in Yankell’s sculpture creates its own narrative. Samuel Yankell’s work is a reflection of a contemporary renaissance man, a life well lived that shines forth with peace and joy.



Samuel Yankell, *Uplifting*, 28”x12”x7”, Metal, Surgical Tape and Epoxy, 2017



Leon Bibel, *Recycled*, Wood and Oil, 48" x 32", 1986

LEON BIBEL

Leon Bibel began the Bibel-Yankell artistic lineage in the first half of the 20th Century as a Polish-born American painter and printmaker, training and working first in San Francisco and then New York. Thematically he was interested in the social condition of workers and the politics of protest and war, but cityscapes and landscapes also feature prominently in his early works. The middle and late years of Bibel's career saw the development of an entirely unique medium of inlaid wooden reliefs enhanced with oil paints. For the last three decades of his life he depicted a remarkable array of themes from the biblical and historical to the political, folkloric and metaphysical, as well as the simple beauty of everyday life. Drawing inspiration from his friendship with the sculptor, George Segal, Bibel created an extraordinarily timeless body of work in a clean and striking style. Segal, himself, was a great admirer of Bibel's work and said, "What comes through most impressively is [his] eager embrace of all of his life's experience, mental, physical and spiritual..." Segal also stressed the importance of examining "Bibel's work for its dead center expression of the psyche of the times." Bibel's work can be found in the permanent collections of museums including the Metropolitan Museum, The British Museum, The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the B'nai Brith's Klutznick Museum, as well as the museums of Rutgers and Princeton universities.



Leon Bibel, *Spice Box - #14*, Wood, 40"x14"x14", 1985



"Dance of Life : An Abstract Figurative Legacy", Installation View

SPECIFICATIONS

NUMBER OF WORKS

22 Paintings and Sculptures

REQUIREMENTS

Moderate security. Approximately 120 linear feet (recommended but scalable to venue).

PARTICIPATION FEE

Please inquire

BOOKING PERIOD

8 -10 Weeks

TOUR

September 2023 - August 2024

SHIPPING

Joseph Morris Gallery makes all arrangements; exhibitors pay outgoing shipping costs, \$3000 - \$4000.

AUXILIARY MATERIAL

-Each institution will receive gratis one of Stuart Yankell's oil paintings from his Travel Series in Venice, Jerusalem or Manhattan.

-A film co-directed by the Academy Award nominated documentarian, Paula DiFlorio, will accompany the tour as well as books available for purchase.

-An artist talk and visual presentation.



Stuart Yankell, *Tango Turning World*, 32" x 20", Acrylic and Oil on Acrylic Panel, 2014

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