HOLYOKE

Wistariahurst gallery sees ‘Red’

Increasingly interested in venturing out-of-doors to experience a deeper relationship with the Earth, in the past 10 years Elizabeth Solley Caine has spent a great deal of time in many of the U.S. national parks, observing the uniqueness of each.

“When I first visited the Grand Canyon I found its majestic beauty overwhelming,” she writes.

Caine does not create traditional landscape paintings. She strives for a reasonably accurate depiction of her surroundings, but she is more interested in the feelings that the environment creates within her - the effect on her spirit and soul. This is what she tries to capture on canvas and share with the viewer.

The Wistariahurst Museum gallery will host a display of her works through May.

Returning to large painting format, and by showing a number of large paintings together, she creates an environment. The size of the paintings in relationship to the size of the room creates an atmosphere that affects the viewer. Hanging multiple paintings together that have strong common elements, as in this Red Mountain Series, creates an installation of sorts.

Caine’s installation helps the viewer consider how the placing of artwork together can cause an emotional effect. She asks, “Is it peaceful, fearful, awe-inspiring or otherworldly?”

Art historian Maureen McVeigh described Caine’s Red paintings as “a dynamic and innovative record of a living subject. Deriving their striking palette, dominated by variations of rich red, her works paint the natural world as a force that is formidable, alluring and ultimately consuming.”

Caine also loves the painting of an individual canvas, and personal expression remains a most valued characteristic of her art. Caine is a painter who resides in Northampton. She earned her bachelor degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College and her master’s degree in fine arts from Pratt Institute.

She has exhibited at various galleries and venues in Western Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut.

You can learn more about the artist and her work online at esolleycaine.com.

This gallery exhibition is sponsored by the Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts Victory Theatre (mifafestival.org).