

REPATRIATION / RAPATRIEMENT

2019 ∞ **BIZZO, DAVID**

Acadian, English, Irish, American descent. Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada.

PAINTING - DRAWING - DESIGN

THE CREATIVE DRIVE - HOME

“A cornerstone was returning home after almost forty years of pursuing Fine Art. Travelling, painting and drawing around the world and upholding that special gift of art, I spent a large portion of my time in London, England, and Europe.”

Abstract art started in a “rumpus room” in East Saint John. Desecrating the basement of his mother’s home in the early nineteen eighties seemed kind to Bizzo. However, he decided to relocate uptown to a studio on the corner of Canterbury and Princess Streets. This is around the corner from 48 Princess Street where he opened up one of the first “pop up” galleries in the country, aptly named, “The Eastern Front”, currently the ‘O’Learys Pub’, in 1981.

Bizzo was given his first museum exhibition at the *New Brunswick Museum* at the end of 1981 into 1982. “Abstract Identities “, curated by himself with the assistance of Robert Percival.

The New Brunswick Museum accepted one of his figurative mixed media works on paper for their permanent collection. Following that exhibition he decided to study in Toronto under the tutelage of a member of ‘Painters Eleven’ and a host of other leading Canadian contemporary painters and printmakers at Arts’ Sake Inc., a then off shoot of the Ontario College of Art, suggested by his mentor Dennis Burton. Gordon Rayner, Graham Coughtry, Robert Hedrick, Robert Markle, Ziggy Blazeje, Tom Hodgson and Diane Pugen all contributed to Bizzo’s creative search.

From Toronto left for London, England, which played a large role in the development of Bizzo’s various styles. Painting and drawing combined created a dual sword of expression allowing him to convey form and content spontaneously together as he called it, ‘Figurative Abstraction’.

Bizzo began painting in this style in the early nineteen eighties during the NeoExpressionist period of Europe and New York with Basquiat, A.R.Penke, Sandro Chia, Anselm Kiefer, George Baselitz, Martin Disler and Francesco Clemente, to name a few totally unaware of the past painterly movements of abstract art of William DeKooning’s, Jackson Pollack, Borduas or Riopelle. (though he would combine all those four into his works..)

Bizzo made in roads with the Canadian Embassy at Canada House in Trafalgar Square, where he did a number of visual, film and print projects. The Canadian Cultural office in Canada House sponsored a print project with a limited edition print distributed to Canadian Embassy’s around the world as well as being showcased at the Bath Contemporary Art Fair, in Bath, England. He also experimented with video and projection at Canada House during the early years.

The Royal Academy of Art's Summer Exhibition in London in 1984, accepted a life size, six by eight foot painting of an abstracted mandala with the explosion of Birth within its centre, by Bizzo, being juried by Sir Peter Blake. The same painting was accepted by the Royal Bank Touring program, in Toronto in the early 1980's.

This was a turning point where he decided to stay and paint in London. He created studios in Kings Cross, Wapping, Notting Hill, West Hampstead and finally Maida Vale until the early nineteen ninety's that heralded his return to Canada.

Christie's in London auctioned one of his paintings through a charity (CCE) in 1986. Bonhams of London also auctioned another work of Bizzo's, in 1996.

Before his return to Canada he embarked on a three and a half month multi-media music and art tour of the Eastern Bloc, the "First Summer of Freedom Tour of Eastern Europe". After the fall of the Berlin Wall, a seven ton truck was converted to a stage open to the public, as a music and painting studio, with musical instruments, a 24 track recording deck with large painted backdrops produced at each concert.

Cultural sites were painted in Bizzo's figurative abstract manner as to engage the audiences, and added vocals with the assistance of two fellow musicians. The music was inspired by the crowds who embraced their performances. BBC Radio coverage before leaving London and throughout the tour and a multi-media CD of music and painted images was produced in London in 1994.

Bizzo returned to Canada and based himself on the West coast, with forays between Los Angeles and Vancouver. He had studios in Playa del Ray, in California, Gastown, Yaletown and Oak and 21st Street, in Vancouver.

He opened up numerous galleries for self promotion in Vancouver, New Westminister, and Port Moody in disused retail and industrial spaces.

Bizzo spent his last formative years in Port Moody, just outside of Vancouver, as a creative director/curator with the Burrard Inlet Artist Association, running a contemporary art gallery with artist studios.

The "creative drive home", to New Brunswick lead him to the small historic community of St. Andrews where he currently resides. Bizzo built and designed his purpose built 1000 sq ft., 'salt box' style studio workshop on his property and will be opening his gallery/studio to the public for public and private viewings, in the Spring of 2020.

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