



ART LOVERS NEWSLETTER

BY GARY CONGER

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Greetings Art Lovers,

The two pictures you see in this newsletter are from my Blue Period. Just kidding, but I did paint them both predominately in blue, and on the same size canvases, during the summer and fall of 2008, when the economy was beginning its sickening slide into the "Great Recession". I must have been feeling blue about all that.



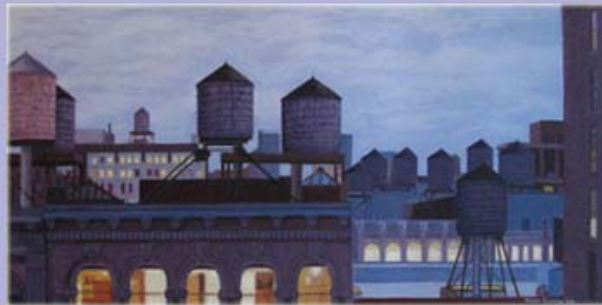
Nellie's Desk
(24 x 48) Oil on canvas

Until recently I had my easel set up on our ninth floor. The room gets a lot of light from four large windows looking south. When walking toward these windows, I can see my favorite water tanks in the distance over the top of Nellie's desk. They're framed by bright blue silk curtains that have white silk mesh panels joined to them. The light effect is dramatic. I set up the picture as an interior with the distant view of my favorite water tanks balanced, or echoed, by the vase in the foreground. I tried to capture the light casting shadows on the desk while also making the highly finished wood surface gleam like reflecting glass. The "ancient" vase was made by my lovely and talented mother-in-law, Molly, who is also, and primarily, an excellent painter and pastel artist.

"Nellie's Desk" was also my first crack at painting fabric on a large scale. It was exhilarating to use large brushes, great globs of paint and long strokes to render the curtains. I'm happy with the painting. It shows the beauty of the New York roovescape (my word) and also the happiness of my home life.

Nellie's Desk' got the best comments at my show of paintings - "Vanishing New York", BooMA Gallery, November 2008-March 2009. The painting found a place soon after the show in the home of a dear friend. She has hung the painting near a window overlooking San Francisco Bay.

"Blue Manhattan" was inspired by a beautiful summer evening at twilight time. What I loved about this scene was the windows. Some have gone dark already - it's "after hours", but many are still brightly lit, and one can only imagine what activities are taking place since there is usually so little evidence of human activity. I'm sure the cleaners are there working diligently, and no doubt there are a few dedicated office workers burning the midnight oil to make a good impression on the boss.



Blue Manhattan
(48 x 24) Oil on canvas

The yellows and oranges of the windows vibrate with the darkening blue sky and also with the buildings going purplish having now only city lights to illuminate them. As I worked with all this blue, I discovered how tricky it is to make the background recede (by "bluing" it) when the foreground is also so full of blue. The light that evening made everything look blue. I found that I just needed a touch more cool red in the foreground to pull that lovely building across the street closer to the viewer. And the water tanks and buildings on the horizon moved farther away with light touches of white and orange mixed in with the blue. Does it work? You be the judge.

Please check out my cityscapes, landscapes and "other interests" paintings at www.theviewoutmywindow.com and email me at garyconger@theviewoutmywindow.com to comment on anything you've viewed or read.



New York Painter
Cityscapes, Landscapes, Photographs

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