
Serafino Catallo



With a romantic name like, Serafino Catallo, it seems inevitable that this person would gravitate towards the arts. And he did. The third child and only son, Serafino, was raised in a lively, Italian, Canadian family where children grew up to pursue careers such as medicine or engineering. His sisters followed these traditional paths. But not Serafino, his heart was set on the arts. To his knowledge, no one else in his family has ever chosen this direction.

After high-school, Serafino attended York University in Toronto, Canada and graduated in 1996 with a BFA. College years were filled with theory and concept, unlike high-school, where he had learned practical application. The university also promoted art works that were an expression of the artist's political and social views. Not wanting his art work to be a political agenda, Serafino learned from his university experience what he did not want to do. He felt and still feels that when someone hangs an artist's work on their wall, it is the greatest compliment that can be given to an artist.

Inspiration for painting came to Serafino from the colour field painters of the mid-century (1930s-50s.) Mark Rothko and his floating squares and Barnett Newman's stripes are two minimalist artists that he particularly admires. In his own work, Serafino, began and remains intrigued by breaking down and reconstructing relationships. Colour, line and form are a constant fascination to him. Viewing art, not only with passion and emotion, but as a science, he orchestrates an exquisite balance of texture, proportion, and colour harmony often using the chevron, circle or square as themes in his paintings. Because he feels that anything on canvas is taken more seriously, he paints almost exclusively on canvas with acrylic paints.

