



Statement by Jerry Ross

My work is strongly influenced by Italian painting theory, especially the ideas of *macchia*, *chiaroscuro*, effect, and surprise made popular by the Italian *I Macchiaioli*.

I name my signature painting style "American Verismo" which is somewhat akin to contemporary "atelier realism" but the latter has been criticized for an academic uniformity and its over attention to details. My approach is experimental and exploratory, introducing abstraction into my realism.

American verismo is more poetic and linked to post-impressionism, the Milan-based *Scapigliatura* ('wild hair') movement, and the *I Macchiaioli*'s commitment to social issues.

My images are spread equally into categories of portraiture, figurative, and landscape.

American verismo is associated with a painterly sketching style, use of broad and calligraphic brushstrokes, and the *alla prima*, "direct attack" technique of painting.

It is also linked to *all'aperto* (open air) impressionist-style landscape painting. In short, to *pleinairism* which has become widely popular in recent years.

In portraiture I seek to reveal the model's personality and situation in simple shapes with bold, direct painting. As in all my work, these differ depending of the type of *macchia* used as the approach: mass, line, or color *macchie* (sketches).

I prefer "non finito" or an "unfinished" look sometimes leaving underpainted areas to show through brushstrokes that ride on the surface. Areas may be scraped off and left in a raw, simplified condition which creates texture and shape.