

Bergt, Michael (b. 1956)

Deshler, Nebraska

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Self-taught artist, admired old masters, desired to be a “classical” painter.

- Mentored by Paul Cadmus and Robert Vickery (both in KIA collection and tempera artists)-encouraged to discover painting for himself.

Also influenced by Della Francesca, Mantegna and Giotto (Italian Renaissance Painters) for their treatment of human form.

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Does egg tempera, bronze, wood sculpture and prints.

- Feels nude may be the most charged subject in art. “As a figurative metaphor, the naked human form can be a reference to our original state or to our fall from grace. The nude figures can also confront us, make us feel uneasy, and awaken our fears, desires, and prejudices. The nude in a painting can be silly, trite and ugly as well as sensual, tempting and forbidding.”

KIA WORK-*The Wake*, egg tempera, 1988

- Uses blue/orange (complementary colors). Paint layering and crosshatching creates a gradation of tone and depth of color and detail.

- “*The Wake* is about the human condition and our journey, moving through life. He is grabbing the air (sheet) to move along, the hand touching the water creates “The Wake” we leave behind, and the figure is the bridge between two elements, air and water.”

