

# Paul Tapia

## A B O U T   T H E   A R T I S T

Born in San Francisco in 1940, Paul Tapia is an old timer with a time-tested approach to his powerful compositions and the untamed freedom to apply it to a canvas.

Getting Tapia to talk about his accomplishments is like pulling teeth. But be careful what you ask him, you're liable to get an answer with a couple of expletives not deleted. He feels that his resumé is hanging on the wall. Having said that, he has done many things in conjunction with 50 years of painting, including traveling the world with his art. Tapia spent several years lecturing and sharing his art concepts at colleges throughout the U.S. and taught formal and classical composition at the prestigious San Francisco Art Conservatory. He has even hosted his own television program.

Tapia says the most important aspect of an artist's reputation is a consistent and confident application of paint to canvas within a given dimension.

There are three main reasons people find Tapia's abstracts pleasing to the eye. First, the pure clean color. The colors are never muddy. Tapia is a master of working wet on wet, and he is always in complete control of the paint to canvas process.

Secondly, his complete understanding of the elements of composition is confidently and deftly applied to his paintings. Composition is simply



controlling the visual interrelationship of two dimensional shapes and three dimensional forms within the canvas.

Thirdly, the "self illuminating" effect in Tapia's abstracts is created by the application of the lightest lights, the darkest darks and the purest color into the focal point. This area is referred to by the old masters as the emphatic area.

Finally, it takes more than natural talent and acquired knowledge to create a powerful abstract painting. Tapia says you've got to have "balls big enough to bowl with" to apply multiple tubes of paint with one stroke. This combination adds up to one of the most dynamic abstract artists alive today. Tapia knows a painting is finished when he reaches a controlled point of abandonment.

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711 Pacific Coast Hwy #305, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Office phone: 714-536-7537