**THAT'S PAINTING Productions** 

At Cup



Ready-to-Use Colors CAUTION: This finish may become slippery when wet.

3806 Harbor Grey

3808 Tile Green

3804 Rich Brown

3810 Tile Red

3801 Chateau Grey

3825 White All colors shown actual colors as

Colors selected from the Master Palette®

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Bernard P. Brunon

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# Echo Colors

Selected interior color arrangements in Glidden's finest interior finishes.



# Echo Colors...Ever F

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	90RR 83/017	Rosedale	60YR 74/060	Antique White	40YY 83/0
Ann's Lace	90111100				
Shadow Rose	50RR 83/034	Rosebud Pink	80YR 83/070	White Swan	60YY 83
Angel Hair	60YR 83/026	White Snow	10YY 83/043	Currier Creme	40YY
Aug.			20YY 83/075	Easter Lily	50Y <sup>\</sup>
Silk Ribbon	60YR 83/043	Almond Wisp			
Blush	80YR 75/05	Early Dawn	00YY 83/0	White Room	60)
		- L Orchid	10YY 83	Lemon White	6
Pink Suede	80YR 74/	Peach Orchid	10YY 83.	1100 Lemon White	

50BG 83/009

30GY 83/021

Extreme White

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All colors shown on this card approximate actual paint colors as accurately as possible.

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		Whitefield	10BG 83/035	Minimia	
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		Misty Cove	50BG 76/045	Sharkon	
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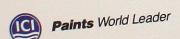
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Cambodua - 09/93. White on White-09/93. detail. later on walls Cambodia - 09/93 - later on wood, 4 panels No. 01161K 3930 Made in U.S.A.

543587 CHOOSTHE BUT DEPT SOUARE From a telephone conversation with Michael Kosch, a composer and writer living in New - So, Bernard - Well, it's figure out wh paint in a Wi Painting away - OK, tha how nt houses and I try to be as good possibly can. But also I think it thing, because I was trained as an painting. nouse painting as a craft and cudio wo pictures, was paint painting would sti would pre down. - I see. - so it deconstru France, were a bu basic cor

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From a telephone conversation with Michael Kosch, a composer and writer living in New York, August 3, 1993.

- So, Bernard, tell me, what's your work about now?
- Well, it's basically about Painting. You know, I've been trying to figure out what's involved in the act of painting. I'm trying to use paint in a way that does not represent anything. I'm trying to get Painting away from the image, away from representation.
- OK, that's on a philosophical level, but on a more superficial level, how would you describe what you do? The Jada Jaga and deve them I - Sales
- What do I do when I paint? Basically I just use paint and put it on the wall.
- Like the painting you worked on today? Sit sailser of east I used the
- Yeah, it's a living room. There was a lot of cracks in the drywall, so we had to patch, tape and float, match the texture, and tomorrow we'll paint the walls in a pink off-white to match the blinds.
- So would you consider yourself I mean, if I called you a house painter, would that be a fair description?
- On one level, yes, because I do paint houses and I try to be as good as I can at it, to do the best job I possibly can. But also I think it would describe only part of the whole thing, because I was trained as an artist, and that's how I approach house painting.
- How did you arrive at this approach: house painting as a craft and also as an art?
- I've been painting houses for a living for years. I was doing it off and on in France before I came to the U.S.A. And I've done it in Houston for over ten years. All that time I also was working in the studio, doing paintings and drawings and stuff like that. And in this studio work, I was trying to paint without making images, without making pictures, without representing anything. In the mid-'70's, in France, I was painting on unstretched canvases with just one brushstroke. The painting ended whenever the paint from the brush was all used up. Or I would stretch strips of canvas between the wall and the floor and I would press the brush at the top of the canvas and let the paint drip much. It is a work of arr bahanda of the characte that an interest down.
  - I see.
  - So it was kind of trying to I mean, it was very much in that deconstructive mode that was set in the late '60's, early '70's, in France, after Barthes, Foucault, Lyotard, Baudrillard and all. There were a bunch of painters then who were deconstructing painting into its basic components like the stretcher, the canvas and the paint. They

were using some of these components and recombining them in different ways. That's very much what I was involved in.

- Uh, that's interesting.
- And when I came to Houston I was still thinking about painting in the same way, using painting not as an expressive outlet but as a philosophical tool. And I was also trying to get away from the image. I realized I was still making images, because as soon as one of these brushtroke paintings was put up on the wall, exhibited, it became an image of the brushstroke. I was getting very frustrated. I was trying to get away from images and I couldn't. It's like, no matter what you paint I mean, even the most abstract painting becomes a picture as soon as it is up on a wall.
- Right.
- But then I came to realize that when I was painting a wall or a room, I was not making an image. I was doing a painting, but not a picture. The painting didn't represent anything. It was a painted wall; it was the painting of a wall, but it was not an image of that wall, because the wall was painted, not pictured. I liked that very much. And I started signing the houses and the rooms I painted, in order to make them part of my art work, as opposed to just a job.
- Can you say what your first work was in that "house painting as art" manner?
- Well, I know it was sometime in 89 or maybe 88? But I'm not sure, really, and I don't think it matters, it was more of a continuum. Because when I realized that these rooms were the kind of painting I was after, I felt very at odds with the idea of being a house painter and an artist at the same time. I mean, I was still very much caught in that distinction between the two, the either/or situation. But it was making total sense to me. It was clear that these were the paintings I was trying to do in the studio; although it didn't happen over night, one morning getting up and saying "I got it!" It was a kind of gradual process.
- Now is it really proper to refer to your paintings, your jobs, as art works, or is there another term? How do you consider them?
- Well, I consider each job as an art work; that's the way I approach it. But it is not an art object. And that's an aspect that I like very much. It is a work of art, because of the thoughts that go into it and because of the position it affirms within art history, but it is not an object.
- Do you title your works?
- Oh yeah, they are signed and titled. And the title is the name of the paint color used and the date. And most of them are just numbers, because that's how a lot of paint stores refer to their colors. So they have titles like 099-08/93 which is the painting I've been working on

#### Page -3-

today, or Anchusa BV011M-05/91. Or Cambodia-09/93, which is one of the paintings that will be on show at the Art Guys'.

- You've told me that in the catalogue you're going to record the execution of the work with invoices and receipts and other paper work. But do you consider those as part of the art work?
- Right, in the catalogue I'll have xeroxes of these documents. But xeroxes are like slides. And a slide of a painting is not part of the painting, it's just a record of it. Now the documents are like -
- Sketches, almost?
- Well, yes, the notes I take before the job are like sketches, but they are not art works in themselves.
- Details, maybe?
- Well, you might call them details, yeah.
- So only the paint on the wall is the work?
- Exactly, together with the act of putting it there.
- I was just gonna ask you: is the actual process of putting the paint on the wall important?
- Oh yes, because I see it as a whole. My activity is not geared towards producing a final object. It's the whole action which constitutes the art work, and the act of putting the paint on the wall is definitely part of it. Also, meeting with the client, the discussion of the project, figuring out what needs to be done, how they want it to be done, and how I can do it.
- Last time we talked you said you were kind of hesitant about including reproductions, like pictures of the houses you've painted or pictures of the walls. Tell me why.
- I don't want to exhibit reproductions, because for a lot of artists who have done earth works, installation works, or happenings, the photographs of the actions were the only things left and they became art objects in themselves. Now they are exhibited like paintings or drawings or whatever.
- But for the sake of a catalogue or a book?
- Yeah, in a catalogue, it's is a different situation. In the press releases, I have included some photographs of previous jobs, but they're like slides and nothing more than that. They're only for documentation's sake.
- Do you feel any connection to the history of mural painting, like Minoan frescoes, Giotto, Michaelangelo, or Sol LeWitt? Or do you feel that your work relates more to the craft of house painting?

- Like I said earlier, I see myself as a painter very much, I think, in the tradition of Matisse, and Pollock, and - I mean, in a way I see this kind of painting as the achievement of the Greenbergian dream, where the flatness of the paint is all there is. You can't go much flatter or much closer to the wall than that: one coat of flat latex on sheetrock.

-Ha ha, yeah.

- But I think, or at least I hope, that my paintings are going somewhere else. Because mural painters were still using representation and producing images. And for me, my main concern is not to paint on the wall but to paint without making images. If I could do it somewhere else, outside a house painting context, I would not hesitate. But so far I'm kind of limited because house painting is the only form of non-representational painting I've found.
- It seems to me that contemporary mural painters are also showing an interest in paint itself. I see a progression, an emphasis on the formal qualities I mean, look at Sol LeWitt, for instance. Even though I agree with you that his work is representational, I think he's tried to get far away from that. But he did not take the next step that I think you're taking. Do you see that at all? Do you see a progression?
- Well, I think, in a way there might be a progression, but my concern was not How could I say that? I didn't situate my work within the history of mural painting and wonder where I could go from there. It just happened that my questions about painting ran into a wall, so to speak.
- Heh, heh, yes Now, beyond a purely painterly view, I think your work has political and sociological implications. And I see a dichotomy in what you're doing. For instance, politically, I see a kind of almost Marxist glorification of the common laborer, and the glorification of the work of that laborer. But at the same time, as a house painter working for basically "bourgeois" institutions or people, you're running a business. So you are propping up the capitalist market. Have you thought about that?
- Huh well, yes but somehow I see this "dichotomy" as part of a dialectic at work here.
- It seems like a slap in the face to both the idea of art for art's sake and the post-modernist notion of art as social activism. It's kind of a poke at both of those ideas.
- Heh, heh, possibly. I hope it is, because I like that. But the way I saw it basically was in terms of economics, and in relation to the art market. What really pleased me when I realized that these walls were my art works, was that I was able to make a living at it and at the same time stay totally outside of the art market, and not produce any objects that could feed into that market.

- Do you see a relation with conceptual art? Since conceptual artists also try to make art without making objects.
- I think yes. I'm using conceptual art as a given, as a tool, and I wouldn't have been able to do what I'm doing thirty years ago, before conceptual art. I think the contribution conceptual art has -
- All the conceptual art that I know of is still figurative. Even though at a certain point, it was as far away as it could get from representation, it still is a representation of an artist's sense of what an idea is. I see what you're doing as relinquishing the idea of an idea. It does not even represent an idea.
- Well yes, it does not "represent" an idea, it enacts it. It puts the idea in action.
- Do you consider what you do decorative at all?
- Yeah, there's certainly some of that.
- Since you mentioned Matisse, and he claimed this quality for his paintings -
- That's definitely an aspect of it. But it is not the end, the goal.

  And maybe that's what makes the difference between me and a regular house painter or decorator, because the decorative effect is not the end; it is not the main concern for me.
- Most of the people that I know would dismiss house painting as a humble trade; they would be hard pressed to think of it in a Fine Arts context. Do you find that's daunting for you, that people would not take you seriously?
- Yeah, right, it is. And I think that's the main reason why it took me several years to get the guts to say loud and clear that this is my art. Also it took me some time to articulate all the implications. But basically, yes, it's hard when you think that nobody will take your work seriously.
- How do you explain the difference between what you do and what a regular house painter does, and from looking at the work itself, is there any way to tell the difference?
- No, looking at the work there's absolutely no way to tell the difference, at least I hope, because I think I'm just as good as any good house painter. The only difference is in the awareness I have of what I'm doing and the context in which I put it. But that's something you don't see.
- You mentioned before that you sign your work, but I think people will find it curious that you sign the work in the same color paint as the wall surface you've just painted, so you cannot see your signature. What's the significance of that?

- First of all, there is a very pragmatic reason. This activity has been clandestine for most of the time. And I did not want to loose my clients, by "messing up" their walls with my signature. What they are asking for is a good paint job, not some kind of artsy stuff. But the invisible signature is also to keep the painting away from the market, to keep the part of it bearing the signature from being turned into a picture and ending up in a gallery.
- Why sign it at all then?
- I think I need to sign it in order to inscribe it in the field of art, to make it an art work. So the signature ties it to the tradition of Painting as an art form, where a painting is signed and dated. That's a way for me to affirm this work as Painting.
- The idea of signature relates to something else, and I was wondering What role do you think your own ego plays in this? In one sense I can see that it is a total abandonment of ego or any trace of ego, by signing your name so it cannot be seen. But at the same time I think people can view it as the ultimate expression of ego because you're saying that this house painting is really Art.
- I don't know. I mean, I've never thought of it this way. But I've never signed any other art works of mine. All the paintings I did, in the past and all the drawings I'm still doing are not signed at all. So when I decided to sign these paintings, there was a very specific reason behind it, like I was telling you earlier.
- Do you want people to know that you've done these works? Is it important to you as an artist?
- Huh, yes and no. I'm not sure. And that's why I've been doing it for years without telling anybody, or very few people, because I think it is not necessary that everybody knows about it. It is very satisfying for me to do it, and that's all I'm looking for.
- You just mentioned "being satisfied," and We talked a little bit about this when you were in New York last time, about the notion of standards, that there are no real standards any more in contemporary art, but in the work that you do there are very real standards because your livelihood depends on whether you do -
- Well, yes, if I do a shitty job, I loose the client!
- Does that provide you with any comfort, as far as what has to be done?
- I think the word comfort is very appropriate. Because, yes, on a practical level I know exactly what I have to do and all I need is to figure out how to do it best.
- It must be comforting to know that there is a way to tell that you've done your best, as opposed to working in the studio where you're always going to be seized with doubt: What do you measure yourself against? But with this, there definitely are specific standards.

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- Yes, you're right. The criteria used to determine the quality of the work are very precise in this case; and, you're right, it is very comforting to know that I can have quality checks and make sure that I'm within what I expect.

-How do you judge the success or failure of a particular work?

- Well, I think, mostly in term of quality, when I've been able to do the best job I could. And actually when I say "I", it is unfair, because I'm not alone. On most jobs, I have people working with me. But I try to get everybody to do their best on every job, because it's a business and that's the way I've learned to try to make it successful. Actually it was called QUALITY HOUSE PAINTING until I changed the name to THAT'S PAINTING Productions.
- Why this new name?
- Because I wanted a name that would encompass all my activities of house painter, curator and all. It is a D.B.A [Doing Business As] registered with the Harris County Clerk.
- Would you call your work expressive?
- I don't know. I mean, I don't think I need painting to express myself. I express myself all the time, when I sing in the shower, when I drive my truck, when I cook, when I laugh, or whenever I don't think painting or art in general is the exclusive vehicle for expression. I consider painting more like a philosophical tool -
- I was not quite asking I just meant do you consider your paintings as expressive, as expressing something of yourself?
- Oh I'm sure you could read pretty much anything in a white wall, or for that matter in someone's decision to paint a white wall. But for me, I think what the walls might express are my thoughts on painting and my intellectual position on art.
- Is it emotional at all?
- Huh, I don't think so.
- Does the notion of beauty have anything to do with your painting?
- Again, beauty is a very vague notion. The notion of quality, yes, has something to do with it. The notion of beauty I might think a color is beautiful but if the client thinks it's ugly, well I won't use it. And I might think that the one they've picked is terrible, but that's what I'm gonna use. So I don't think beauty -
- It's superfluous, almost, it does not enter into the way you approach your art.
- No, and I think in that way my work is really contemporary, in the sense that it does not refer or rely on any kind of aesthetic.

- This is related Is there a spiritual element in what you're doing?
- I don't think so, no. I don't think anyone who looks at a room I painted and knows that I intended it as an art work will have a spiritual experience. Well, again, may be some people have spiritual revelations starring at a blank wall, but they don't need to know that the wall is a work of art for that. But I hope the viewer will have an intellectual experience, yes, that's the whole intent.
- Can you see your work developing or progressing in any sense?
- Oh! I hope it will. But I don't know in which way at all. I cannot see it because if I could I would be there already. But I hope it will progress.
- I guess I'm asking how would it develop from what it already is? And could it develop from what it is?
- I think what might happen is that this kind of deconstruction of representation, this kind of figuring out representation and tracking down reality, might take me in other directions I have several projects of installations involving a few historical art works and I've also been asked to curate other exhibitions. The shows I've been organizing are all addressing the issue of representation; and that's something I was not expecting to be doing even seven or eight years ago. I mean, I did not know I was going to use exhibitions as a tool to explore this issue.
- You mentioned your curating in relation to your work as an artist. Would you ever consider putting together a show of other house painters?
- Ha, ha! I've never thought about that. If they approach their work the same way I do, well, yes, maybe.
- But only on that condition?
- Well, yes, otherwise, it would be presenting house painting as a Ready-Made, and that's not at all what I'm doing.
- Right When we first began you mentioned the French deconstructionists in the early '70's, and their influence on your work. Are there any other particular sources that you would say are influencing the way you're painting now?
- There are two people whose writings have been very influential and they both wrote about representation. Unfortunately they are both dead now. One is Louis Marin, a French philosopher, and the other is Craig Owens, an American art critic. And I was really interested in what they had to say about representation. I don't see anybody else directly addressing that question now, so I feel like I'm kind of on my own. In a way it's exciting, and in a way it's scary too. I am also very interested in the writings of [French philosopher] Clement Rosset. His definition of "reality", of "real" somehow underlines all my projects.

Thierry de Duve is also fascinating, even though I don't always agree with him.

- So for you Painting is anything but dead, right?
- Right, it's not dead at all. I mean, as long as there are going to be questions left, Painting will still be around to answer them.
- Speaking for the layman, anyone can tell if someone has done a good job as a house painter. But to really appreciate a good house painting job, do you need to be an expert? And if so, isn't this very similar to contemporary art, where you need to know a lot if you're going to appreciate what goes into it?
- I don't think so. I think most of my clients really appreciate what I do, and, I guess, they are not experts, otherwise they wouldn't need me. But I don't know if I'm answering your question here.
- You are, but to continue with that, do you think one of your clients could appreciate your work on an aesthetic level the way that you do?
- Oh I think some of my clients do, yes, some who are very much interested in art.
- So you've explained your approach to some of your clients?
- Yeah, to some of them, and again, only recently. I don't know, but for long, I've felt like I just needed to keep it for myself.
- Are you afraid, and this relates to another question I've asked you, that people would think you're joking?
- Exactly. With most of my clients, I'm afraid that they would see me as some kind of weirdo and take their business elsewhere. So that would be defeating the purpose.
- But there is a humorous element to what you're doing -
- Well, I hope so.
- So you do want that?
- Yes But also, I felt like I really needed to be sure of what I was doing and of the impact it had or whatever What I'm trying to say is that I needed to make sure that it answered the questions I was asking before I went public with it. And it took me some time to get there.
- Your work is related to another type of wall art, Graffiti. And I see some similarities and I see some big differences. You can look upon some of the graffiti artists do as setting up a certain limit that what some of the graffiti artists do as setting up a certain limit that they test and break, and that limit is the lawfulness of what they do. there is also a certain danger in what they do, in drawing on the walls. There is also a certain danger in what they do, in drawing on the walls there any danger element in what you're doing? Any limit that you're pushing?

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- Well, there's always the danger of falling off a ladder. But seriously, as far as pushing limits, I hope I have pushed painting beyond the limits of representation. I see my work as exploring the boundaries of reality. The other limits that I see are the ones that I boundaries of reality. The other limits that I see are the ones that I mentioned earlier. I am kind of pushing the limit of acceptance of the museum and the art market. Since I'm not producing any object, I cannot fit into that market. And my paintings are kind of perishables, they are subjected to wear and tear, especially in Houston's climate where are subjected to wear and tear, especially in Houston's climate where they have to be done over every few years. That does not fit well with the museum's idea of art preservation.
- Speaking of the art market, do you still do other things, more traditional stuff?
- Yes, I still draw a lot, pretty much every day.
- And do the drawings influence your house painting, and vice-versa?
- No, I think they are very separate activities. I mostly draw when I'm on the phone, doing doodles, like I'm doing right now.
- Ha, ha. But you see these as separate and not at all connected, there is no give and take between the two?
- No, there is no direct influence or connection. And again, I was talking earlier about the exhibitions I have curated, and they are, in a way, also separate from the house paintings. It is all separate and all related at the same time, because these different activities are all addressing in one way or another the questions of reality and representation.
- Do you see your work as an affirmation or a negation of Painting as an art form?
- I think it's an affirmation. I think it is trying to figure out how far Painting can go, and I think it can go beyond representation.
- Do you see it as a beginning or an end?
- In a way it is an end. If you look at it from the Greenbergian perspective it's the closing of the Modernist tradition.
- As flat as you can go.
- Exactly, unless you paint behind the wall surface, I don't think you can go much further than that. So seen from this perspective, it is an end. But seen from a different perspective, I think it's a beginning. I think it's -
- - a clearing out?
- Yeah, a realization that representation is not a limit and that there can be works that go beyond representation. And I think this is in some way what painters have been seeking for a whole century almost, from the

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Cubists on. I think that all of Duchamp's work, for instance, can be seen as an attempt to go beyond traditional representation. And in some ways he succeeded, and in some ways he did not.

- I think people might look at your work or hear you describe it, and think of it as very passive. But is there an aggressive element as well?
- Aggressive?
- A kind of "spit in your eye" element in there?
- I don't think so. The aggression might be in the concept, but I don't know. It might be uncomfortable for some people; every time you push a few limits, they have to reassess their convictions, and that's not something they might necessarily want to do.
- Does one have to see your work to understand or appreciate it?
- responded very positively and enthusiastically have not seen any of the paintings. That's why in a way it's not aggressive, because Again, it is not an object, and you don't need to be in the presence of some object to get the effect. That's one thing, I guess, that makes it different from traditional painting, because, for a Cezanne or a Matisse to be effective, to really affect you, you have to be looking at it. As for Duchamp, you don't have to look at it, you just need to know about it. You don't need to see his urinal; all you have to do is think about the Fountain to get the result that he was after.
- In that case then, why paint the walls at all, why be a house painter?
- Because it pays the bills.
- Ha, ha, ha. Now what are some of the reactions you've gotten thus far both from people that are in the art world, like writers or critics or other artists, and people who are outside of the art world?
- Well, some have been enthusiastic and some have been very polite. But the show at the Art Guys' is the first time that this work is going public and that is something I'm very excited about, because I'm going to get all those reactions that I have not had yet. So I will be able to answer you better on September 5th.
- We talked a little bit about this Do you consider your work a collaborative process with your assistants, or are they just tools, in a sense?
- Oh no, they're assistants. Technically they are contract laborers, but for me they're very much assistants. It just happens that we are not working in a studio situation. I used to refer to this kind of painting as en plein air, or in the open air, an expression used to painting as en plein air, or in the open air, an expression used to describe the 19th century painter's work outside the studio. Also, I describe the 19th century painter's work outside the studio. Also, I like the fact that Leamon Green, who has been working with me for the

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last three years, is an artist himself. I've had many artists as assistants in the past, and I'm trying to do so as much as possible because it just feels comfortable and I know they can use the money. The only problem though, is that they are not always dependable. And this is a business, so you've got to keep a schedule.

- Have you thought about what you might call what you do? The way that some artists might call their work conceptual, or installation art -
- Well, I just say "house painting" for lack of an all encompassing term. Because for me it is conceptual, it is an installation, and it is a performance as well. As I said earlier, the aspect of meeting with clients, and figuring out what they want to have done in their house, going through the process of planning the job, organizing the crew, getting all the materials and all the equipment together, doing the job within a certain time period there's almost always a deadline this whole process is a performance. But again, it is not a representation. It happens in real time, with people who are not characters acting out their parts. It's all live. There's no pretense or make-believe, as in traditional performance art.
- Do you ever get tempted to subvert what you're doing a little bit, maybe to put a stroke across a molding, or something?
- No, I try to be as good a house painter as I can. When I can make suggestions on things that I think might be improvements, I do. But I really follow what the client wants to do. Actually I provide a very detailed estimate that specifies everything that's going to be done and that's what I follow.
- I find it very interesting that you're actually following someone else's instructions basically, and most artists, I think, would find that limiting.
- Yeah, but that's something I'm familiar with. Already in the mid'70's, I had designed systems and techniques to make paintings where I
  had almost no control over the result. I would just start the process
  and let it develop by itself. For me the creative aspect of it is not
  in the realization of the work. It is very gratifying to handle the
  paint and the colors and all, but not necessarily creative. I feel that
  it's more in the conception of it that I'm being creative.
- What is your favorite brand of house paint?
- Well, working in Houston, and given the weather and the climate, I think Benjamin Moore is probably one of the best on the market, if you consider the price-to-quality ratio. It also handles very well.
- Do you have a favorite color from Benjamin Moore?
- No. Huh, well, actually yes, there is one that I used for my studio, and it's called 1177. It's a beigy pink, in homage to Matisse's The Pink Studio.

- Ha, ha , great.
- There's one thing I wanted to add when we were talking about the different aspects in my work. I mentioned performance, but there is also a whole sociological aspect to it.
- Sociological in what way?
- In the relation I have with the clients, and the fact that when you paint someone's house, or someone's living room or bedroom, you kind of share part of their lives, some of their secrets, in a way. You get involved much more into their lives than if you were just meeting them at a party or something.
- Right.
- And that's a whole aspect that is very interesting. This aspect for me is totally part of the work. So I think it goes well beyond painting and involves a whole area of activity, a gamut of human relations. Actually some of my clients have become good friends.
- Now, given your background, does it surprise you that you're doing a type of art that is extremely ordered and extremely disciplined and extremely subjugated to the whims of someone else? Does it surprise you from what your early experiences were as an artist that you would end-up doing that?
- In a way, yes, I guess. Running my own business is certainly a far ca from the anarchistic and Bohemian days of the art school world. But at the same time, I don't see myself confined in it, because it is only one aspect of what I do; in a way, and as I was saying earlier, that's not where the creative process takes place. Like we were saying it is very comfortable to have a whole set of technical rules that you can follow. That leaves your mind free to wander. Also it is financially providing, and that in itself is rewarding! And again, we were talking about traditions. I think this work arches back to the tradition of patrons commissioning artists. For centuries, all paintings were done on commissions, and these commissions were very precise. You had to have so many people in the picture, and so many trees, and so on.
- That's right.
- Another thing I wanted to mention in relation to that sociological aspect - when I first realized all that was involved in it, and thinking about it as an art form and trying to go public with it, I thought that keeping a diary would be an interesting way to comment on it. So I started writing the thoughts I had throughout the day about art in general, the specific job, the people, and all that, à la Sophie Call But at the same time I was feeling uncomfortable writing down all that stuff. And soon I realized that what I was interested in, what I really liked, what was exciting was to be there and do it. And when it came the time to write it down, I was falling back into representation. Putting it in a written form was dissociating it from the reality in which it took place and putting it, representing it on the page. So I stopped keeping a diary.

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- Do you see a possibility that someday someone would be selling their house and say "Oh well it has a paint job by Bernard Brunon" and that would add to the value of it?
- Well, possibly. But I don't know who would be foolish enough to believe it.
- Would you ever auction your services?
- I've never thought about that. I kind of doubt that would ever happen so I don't think I have to worry about it I don't know. If I need a lot of money at some point, I might consider it, but so far I feel pretty satisfied, so -
- -What do you do, as far as setting your own prices for doing a paint job? Are they comparable to what other people in Houston charge?
- I think they are very competitive, yes. I don't think I'm the cheapest, but I'm not the most expensive either. For the quality of work I do, for all the attention I put in the job, I think my prices are very reasonable.

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- You might start a trend of house painters loading their work with theory, and asking top market price.
- Yeah, right. It will be called the House Painting School.
- Ha ha!
- One thing that's exciting about having this show is that a lot of these questions might get some kind of answers then. Hopefully, people will be responding to it one way or the other. I hope it won't leave them totally cold.
- You mean, when they walk into the gallery?
- Yes, and when they learn about the process, and the concept.
- And how are you going to get that across?
- Through this interview.

#### Page -14-

- It almost sounds to me that you feel a responsibility or even a mission to repudiate representation. Do you see that?
- Oh no, I don't see it as a mission. But I see it as kind of a challenge, trying to see if I can get away without representation, without representing anything. Trying to see how close I can stick to reality, or how far I can stretch the border line between reality and its representation. And I'm sure I'm gonna run - and I have already run into limitations. Like now, the fact that we are talking about it is somehow putting it into representation, and even more so when this conversation is transcribed and printed.
- Yeah, I guess I could see that. But there's no other way to In a sense I would say that all the paper work is a representation of it.
- Oh, I don't think so. All the notes, the estimate and invoices are like some "props" in a real life theater. I mean, they're part of the thing, they don't stand outside of it, like a representation does.
- I wanted to ask you If someone brought you something to paint, would you do it or would you consider that it's basically - I'm thinking of something like a shutter -
- Yeah, I don't know. I don't think I would. Because again well, I don't know. I mean, in a sense if I painted a shutter, it would be a painted shutter, it wouldn't be an image of that shutter, and in that respect it would be true to my paintings. But I would be back into making objects, into producing art objects, and falling back into the art market, which is one thing I was trying to get away from.
- That was also the goal of the conceptual artists and the earth artists, to get out of the art market. But any way they turned, it seems that the art market was able to follow and make their work a commodity. But in a sense your work is already a commodity...
- Oh yes, it is, yes. From the very start; and that's why I think it does not have to be turned into a commodity again. It cannot be recommodified.
- But is there any way that you can imagine, and I think I can, how the art market might fit what you do back into it?
- I bet it will, ha ha! If there is any money to be made from it, I'm afraid it will. It has for everything else.
- Would that upset you?
- I don't know, I think it might be fair game. I'm trying to make it tough, as tough as I can. But again, it's kind of accessory. If the whole purpose of my work was a defiance of the art market, then, yes I would feel totally defeated. But it is just a side effect that I really welcome, and it's working now and I really enjoy it. But if it stops being efficient, too bad, it would have worked for some time. I would not feel defeated.

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U.S.A.

Tel. & fax. 713-526-1915

#### PERSONAL

Born July 26, 1948 in St. Etienne, France
Permanent U.S. resident

#### EDUCATION

- 1980 <u>Master of Fine Arts</u>, Painting/Sculpture, University of Houston, Houston, TX
- 1975 Diplôme National des Beaux Arts, Painting, Marseilles, France
- 1969 <u>Diplôme Universitaire d'Etudes Littéraires</u>, Art History, Lyons, France
- 1967 Baccalauréat, Philosophy, St. Etienne, France

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1993 The Art Guys Gallery, Houston, TX \*
- 1992 St. James Place, Houston, TX
- 1984 Almeda Project for the Arts, Houston, TX
- 1983 Marshall Field's, Houston, TX
- 1982 First City National Bank, Houston, TX
- 1980 Bernard Brunon, Notebooks, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

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- 1978 ADDA Galerie-Association, Marseilles, France
- 1976 <u>Trois Semaines-Quatre Espaces</u>,\* Musée de Peinture, Grenoble, France
- 1975 Galerie Le Flux, Perpignan, France
  "Chez Malabar et Cunégonde", Nice, France

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1993 Drawing Conclusions, \* Inman Gallery, Houston, TX
  - 1992 Fax of Life, Art Guize Collection, Houston, TX
- 1991 Artists' Books, Lorence-Monk Gallery, New York, NY
  - 1990 Art in Space, Performance, DiverseWorks, Houston, TX
  - 1988 Art Against AIDS, Decorative Center of Houston, Houston, TX
    House Paintings, DiverseWorks, Houston, TX
  - 1986 The Street: A 21st Century Museum, Lawndale Art & Performance,
    Houston, TX
    Sound environment for L. Schoyer's Installation #19, Lawndale Art
    & Performance, Houston, TX

- Bernard P. Brunon DiverseWorks Presents, DiverseWorks, Houston, TX Artists' Call, Lawndale Art & Performance, Houston, TX Master of Fine Arts, Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston,
- Collaborations, Lawndale Art & Performance, Houston, TX
- Dime Store Dream, University of Minessota, Duluth, MN Points of view, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX Appalachian National Drawing Competition, \* University of North
- Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, Houston, TX Superspectives, Lawndale Art & Performance, Houston, TX
- Miniature Show, Lawndale Art & Performance, Houston, TX ADDA Galerie-Association, Marseilles, France 25-35,\* Musée Ziem, Martigues, France ADDA Galerie-Association, Marseilles, France
- Luminy, \* HausDeutcherRing, Hamburg, Germany Regards 77, \* Musée des Beaux Arts, Caen, France Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris
- Leon, \*\* Centre d'Art de Fontblanche, Marseilles, France 3 x 7 Peintres, Galerie Athanor, Marseilles, France Luminy, \* ARC 2, Musée d'Art Moderne de la ville de Paris, Paris 1975 Salon de Mai, \* Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris Margailleg, France
- 15 peintres au Musée Longchamp, Marseilles, France 15 Peintres au Cloitre d'Elne, Elne, France 1973
- Galerie Athanor, Marseilles, France La Peinture au Dehors, Lully, France
  - \* Catalogue published for the exhibition

# RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Curator and coordinator of "HERE'S LOOKING AT ME" Contemporary

  Calf-Dortraita for FLAC Art Contemporain Luona France Self-portraits, for ELAC Art Contemporain Lyon, Lyons, France Curator and coordinator of Status of Sculpture, for ELAC Art

  France Toured to the ICA London: Contemporain Lyon, Lyons, France. Toured to the ICA, London; Provinciaal Museum, Hasselt, Belgium; Starke Foundation, Lowen
- Palace, Berlin.

  Coordinator of New Piano Music: Alan Johnson and Robert Pearson

  for DiverseWorks, Houston, TX
- Curator of House Paintings for DiverseWorks, Houston, TX
- Curator of House Paintings for Diverseworks, Houston, TX Curator and Coordinator of Contemporary Photographic Portraiture for ELAC Art Contemporain Lyon, Lyons, France

  Producer of New Music, concert by Pianist composer Robert Pearson,
- Research paper on Avant Garde Music in the Third Coast Region for New Music America '86 Festival, Houston, TX

  Co-curator and coordinator of Edward Ruscha: a Retrospective for Musee q'Art Contemporain, Lyons, France
  Co-founder of International Contemporary Art Productions Inc.,

modeling securities to the

# Bernard P. Brunon

1985 Producer and curator of SANS TITRE, Photography and Video from France, for DiverseWorks, Houston, TX. Toured to Santa Fe, NM; Fairbank, Juneau and Anchorage, AK; Rocherster, NY; Atlanta, GA 1983 Guest lecturer for the University of Houston Art Department

Graduate Seminar, on Modes of Criticism: Post-Structuralism 1975-78 Co-founder and Treasurer of ADDA Galerie-Association, an

alternative space in Marseilles, France

### PUBLICATIONS

Self-Portrait or Where is the I ?, in catalogue of "HERE'S LOOKING AT ME', Contemporary Self-Portraits, ELAC, Art Contemporain Lyon,

Richard Tuttle: Collage Drawings, in Artstudio nº23, France Winter

Status of Sculpture, in catalogue of Status of Sculpture, ELAC,

Le status de la sculpture, in Bulletin Art Contemporain Lyon,

A Houston, la Collection Ménil, in La Revue d'Octobre des Arts,

Musée St. Pierre Art Contemporain, Lyons, France, 1988 Portraiture, in catalogue of Contemporary Photographic Portraiture, ELAC Art Contemporain Lyon, Lyons, France, 1987

Forrest Bess: A Painter and His Theories, Artspace, U.S.A., fall

New Music in the Third Coast Region, Artspace, U.S.A., fall 1986

Jerry Hunt: an Interview, Artspace, U.S.A., fall 1986 New Music America '86, Artspace, U.S.A., summer 1986 Edward Ruscha: an Interview, in catalogue Rétrospective Edward

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Looking at/for Matisse, Artspace, U.S.A., summer 1984 Sites/Sights, Image, HCP publication, Houston, TX, U.S.A., March

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Statement in Luminy catalogue, HausDeutscherRing, Hamburg, 1977 Statement in Luminy catalogue, ARC 2, Musée d'Art moderne de la

Co-editor of ADDA Bulletins, Marseilles, France, from 1975 to 1978 Historical introduction to Les Six Jours de la Peinture catalogue, Le Provençal publication, Marseilles, France, 1975

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### Bernard P. Brunon

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- Juliet Art Magazine, Trieste, Italy, # 62, April/May 1993 KUNSTFORUM International, Berlin, # 122, May 1993

# Bernard P. Brunon

# COLLECTIONS

Paintings and drawings in the public collections of:

- Musée de Peinture, Grenoble, France
- Musée d'Art Moderne, St. Etienne, France

and many private collections in France, Germany and the U. S. A. Collection of Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris, - Musée Ziem, Martigues, France Collection Ben Vautier, Nice, France

Since 1989 most of my paintings have been done on private

GRANTS

One Year grant for graduate studies in the United States from the

Annette Kade Foundation

Annette Kade Foundation, New York, for the SANS TITRE

The Georges Pompidou Foundation, New York, for the SANS TITRE

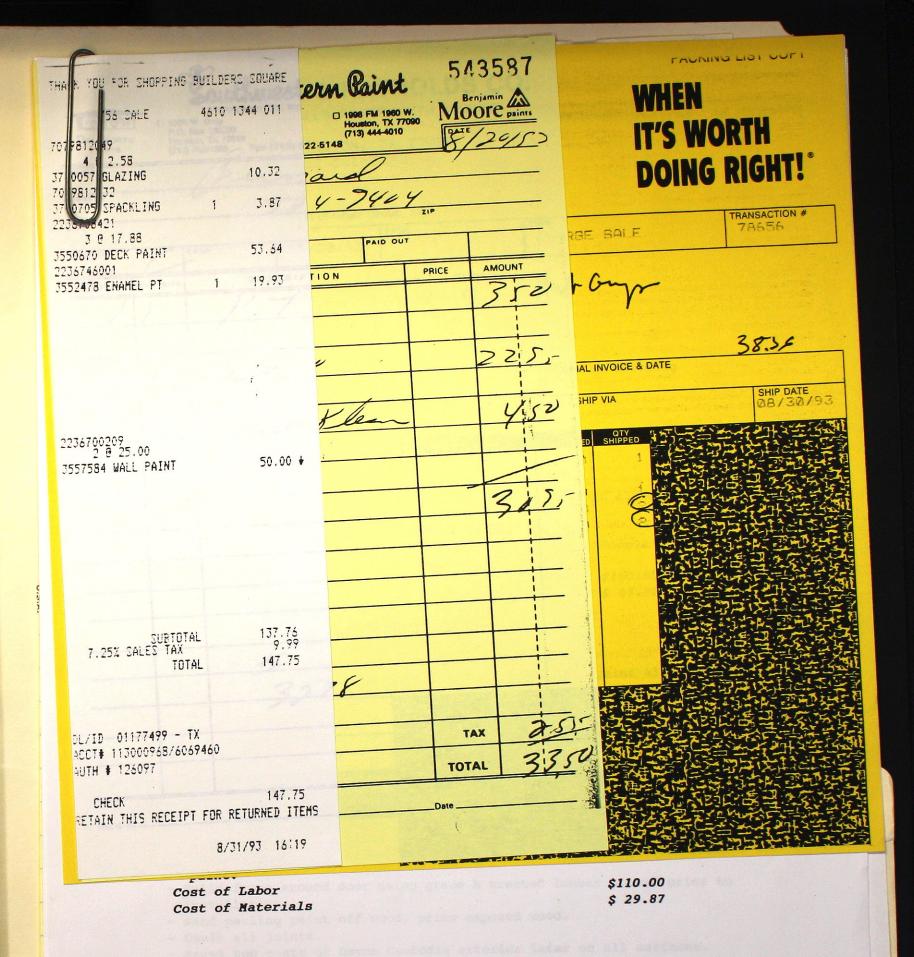
exhibition exhibition
Cultural Arts Council of Houston, Houston, TX, for the SANS TITRE

exhibition
Direction des Arts Plastiques, French Ministry of Culture, for the

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July 30, 1993

Michael Galbreth Jack Massing Art Guys Gallery 631 W. 22nd. St. Houston, Texas 77008

Dear Michael and Jack,

I am pleased to offer you the following services on the building at  $631\ \text{W}.\ 22\text{nd}$  St. for the prices quoted below.

### INTERIOR

#### Gallery Space

- Repair all cracks and holes in drywall.
- Roll one coat of Glidden flat white latex BSQ 7200 on all drywall surfaces.
- Sand door frame and door to living space.
- Brush one coat of Glidden semi-gloss alkyd white on door and door frame.

Cost of Labor Cost of Materials

\$180.00 \$ 47.40

## Living Space

- Repair all cracks and holes in drywall.
- Roll one coat of Glidden flat white latex BSQ 7200 paint all drywall.
- Scrape and sand paint off floor, recoat with Glidden oil base floor paint.

Cost of Labor Cost of Materials

\$240.00 \$ 58.75

## Bathroom

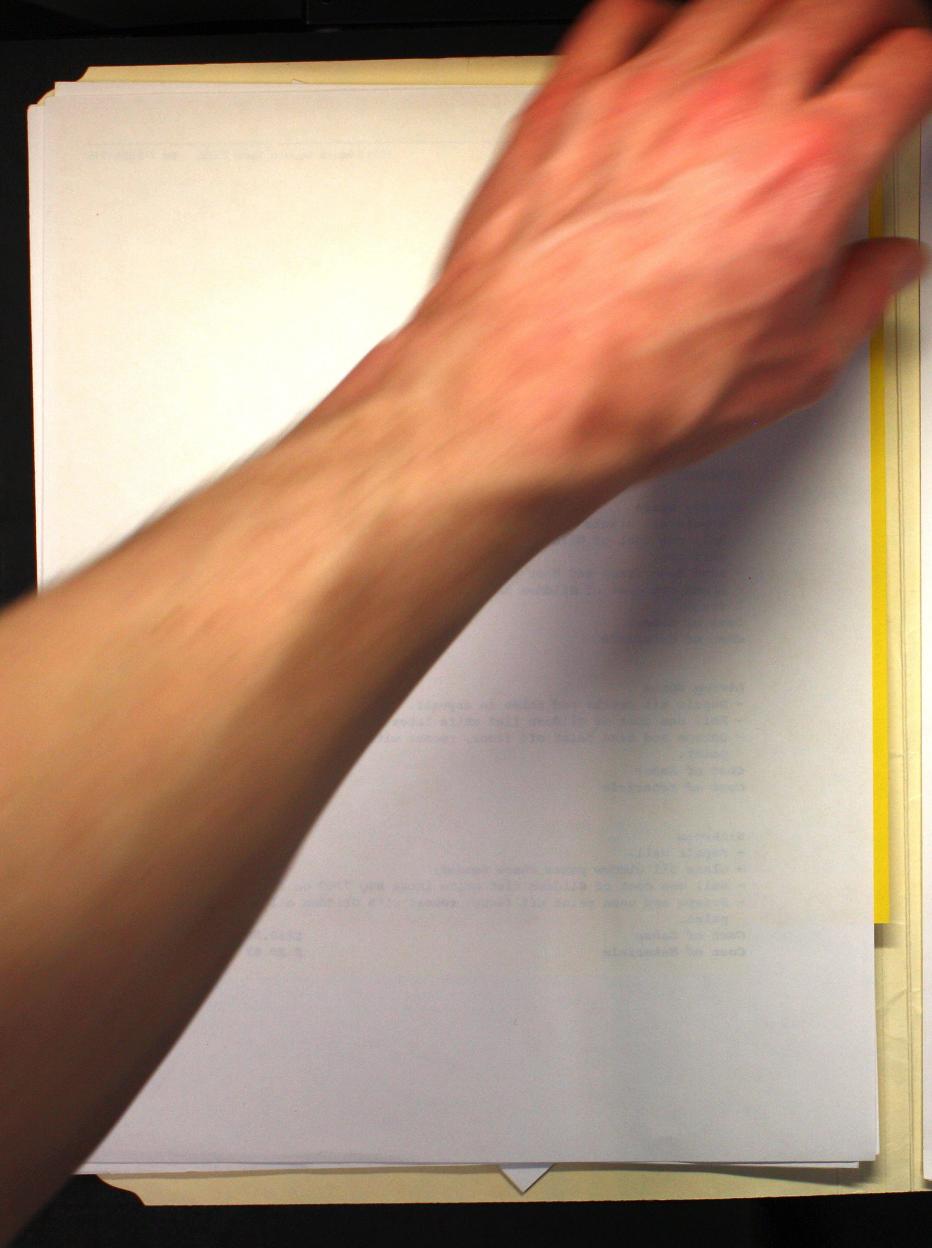
- Repair wall.
- Glaze all window panes where needed.
- Roll one coat of Glidden flat white latex BSQ 7200 on all walls.
- Scrape and sand paint off floor, recoat with Glidden oil base floor paint.

Cost of Labor

\$110.00

Cost of Materials

At Compa



July 30, 1993 Art Guys Gallery Page - 2 -

### EXTERIOR

#### Front

- Sand all rust off metal 'Bond' beam above Front Door, prime with IronClad Retardo, top coat with Devoe Cambodia exterior latex.
- Sand peeling paint off all window frames on South side of building, prime all exposed wood, top coat with Devoe Cambodia exterior latex.

Cost of Labor \$135.00 Cost of Materials \$38.85

#### Side Panels

- Sand peeling paint off all panels, remove peeling caulk.
- Brush oil base primer on all exposed wood
- Caulk where needed.
- Roll two coats of Devoe Cambodia exterior latex on all surfaces.

  Cost of Labor \$255.00

Cost of Materials \$106.90

## East Porch

- Sand peeling paint off all windows, remove peeling caulk.
- Brush oil base primer on all exposed wood
- Caulk where needed, glaze window panes where needed.
- Brush two coats of Devoe Cambodia exterior latex on all windows.

Cost of Labor \$250.00
Cost of Materials \$43.50

## Fascia

- Replace all fascia on second floor and damaged fascia on first floor with grade A treated lumber primed prior to installation.
- Brush two coats of Devoe Cambodia exterior latex on all fascia.

Cost of Labor \$355.00 Cost of Materials (3" x 8" and 3" x 12" lumber) \$2091.50 (2" x 8" and 2" x 12" lumber) \$524.95

#### Back Door

- Build frame around door using grade A treated lumber primed prior to installation.
- Sand peeling paint off wood, prime exposed wood.
- Caulk all joints.
- Brush two coats of Devoe Cambodia exterior latex on all surfaces.

Cost of Labor \$118.00
Cost of Materials \$42.97



1001 B Bomar, Houston, Texas 77006 Tel: 713-526-1915

## Back Porch

- Sand peeling paint off window and frame.
- Brush one coat of oil base exterior primer on all exposed wood.
- Glaze window panes where needed.
- Brush two coats of Devoe Cambodia exterior latex on all windows.

Cost of Labor Cost of Materials \$144.00

\$ 26.73

Thank you for the opportunity to present this proposal for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bernard P. Brunon

## ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. Work as specified is authorized. Any additional work will be priced accordingly.

The schedule of payment is as follows:

- Thirty percent (30%) deposit upon acceptance of proposal.
- Seventy percent (70%) upon completion of the work.

Acceptance Signature ARTE GUISE INCK

Date AUGUST 5, 1993

Jet Comp

EDWIN C. WOOD, M.D., P.A. 5300 SAN JACINTO STREET SUITE 150 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004



midnesday

Dear Bernard,

Many thouser for your usual superb crafts manship!

he are always delighted to howe your as work" in - and part of - our home!

men of your galley show!

Sincerby, Salvord

At Cup

9 Greenway Plaza, Suite 2400

August 8

To who

Bernar service painte also b

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> > Plea

MANAGEMENT MATERIALS (713) 622-8748 INTERMAT Telephone (713) 623-4567 Houston, Texas 77046 hath wall REFERENCE FOR BERNARD BRUNON , 1993 d Brunon has provided both residential and commercial painting es for me for over ten years. I am happy to recommend him as a r. Not only is he uniquely qualified through training and experience, he orings a conscientiousness to the task that is rare. sider Bernard a collaborator, rather than a contractor, and one whose ase feel free to contact me at the above number should you have litional questions. Smi Dranchang oni Beauchamp At Compa

Aport Guys Galley.

Luterian

Jolly Space: all dy wall. west wall hath wall

reform wacks. Jatch all holy 631 W Z Z mg 77008 0 hiring space: all dy walls: same Office. Bathroom, refour wall. flage windows. Boch Pach: all windows & trim. sanda prime.

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powd - pad 4. Front: pourt windows. tascia: all award. reflece noten wood. Back don: prime. but from around door.

how work

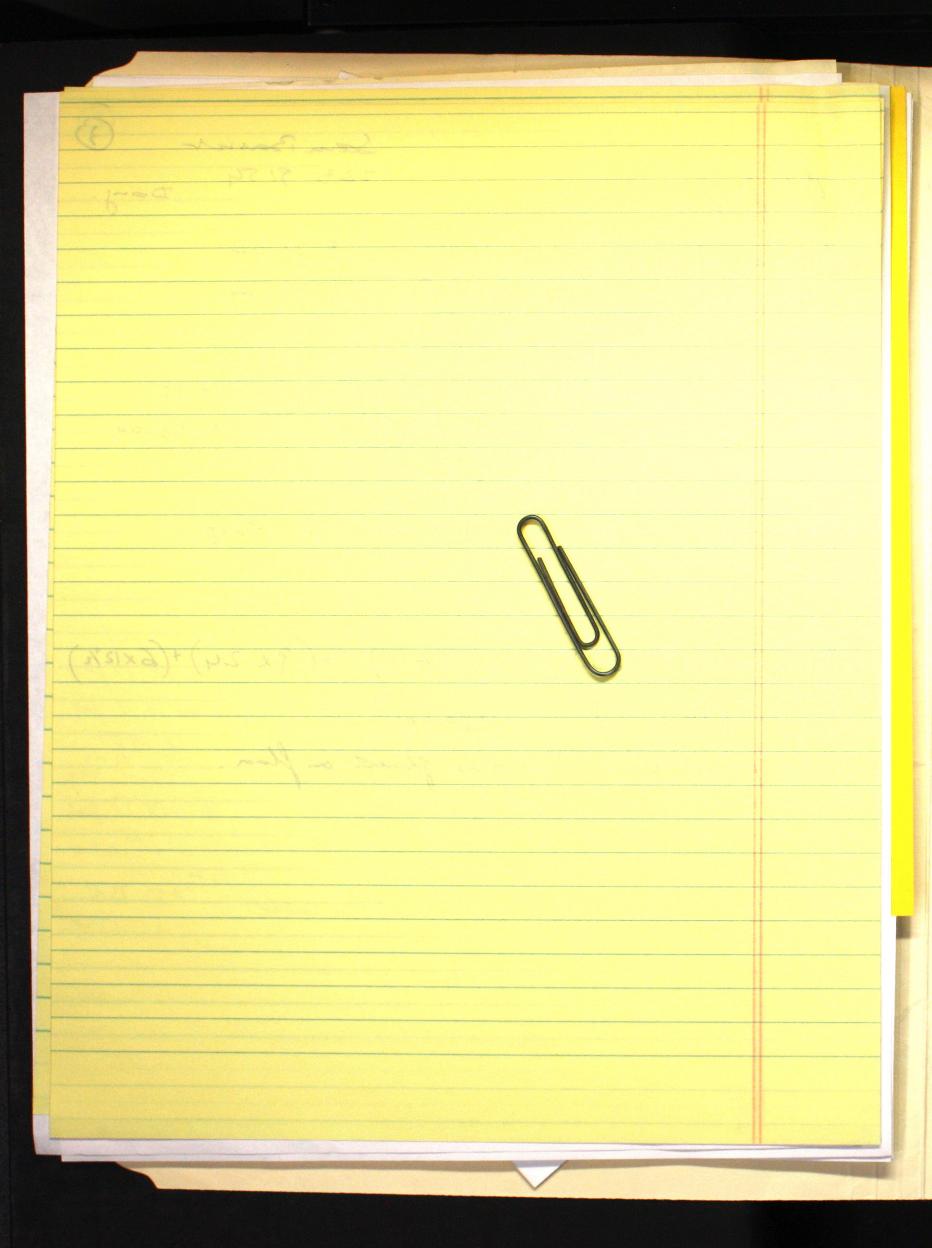
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631 W 22 mg plays how consiste, reconsisted have nothern would but from around dues NA CASCASIO ( Alexander of ) 2 I for Jaseis inflowerest a letter of recommunitarities

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Modern Bas 9 1 A 11 12 1 edlegel suhile Medelen house published A.V. Dense server 1765 + 4 Top Completed . sel by de

Sam Bainer ZX8X CO -> 87.29 3×12 × 23' dust 2x12x10 -> 14 49 X12-> /729 6~8 -> 9+3+ pauls: Hoon: (38 x 20) + (8x11) + (9x 24)+(6x12/2) (10 x 15) 1290 5p1 -> paint around coins fluent on floor.



## **THAT'S PAINTING Productions**

Bernard P. Brunon

1001 B Bomar, Houston, Texas 77006 Tel: 713-526-1915

September 4, 1993

Michael Galbreth Jack Massing Art Guys Gallery 631 W. 22nd. St. Houston, Texas 77008

## INVOICE

For painting done at the Art Guys Gallery, 631 W. 22nd St., Houston.

## Cost of Labor

- Gallery Space "White on White" - Living Space "White on White", "Harbor Grey" - Bathroom "White on White" - Front "Cambodia"	\$180.00 \$240.00 \$110.00 \$135.00
Subtotal Cost of Labor  Cost of Materials	\$665.00
Total Due	\$884.36

Thank you. It is a pleasure doing business with you.

Sincerely,

Bernard P. Brunon

At Compa

Cette publication a été éditée par antoine lefebvre editions à 100 exemplaires à l'occasion de la journée transversale "Entreprises Artistes" du 2 mai 2017 organisée par l'ANR ABRIR (Institut ACTE/DRM Dauphine) à l'Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne. Cette œuvre est libre, vous pouvez la copier, la diffuser et la modifier selon les termes de la licence artlibre.

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