

SOPHISTICATED LIVING

{Nashville's Finest}



Jan/Feb 2018
five dollars

slmag.net



ED NASH(VILLE)

Written by Genevieve Moore

Photographed by Khaki Bedford and Brandon Lee

Many artists have big dreams of making it in such a massive industry filled with colorful options, but for most, it remains just that- a dream. However, this was not the case for artist, Ed Nash. His leap of faith took him on a leap across the big pond, otherwise known as the Atlantic Ocean. Departing from the Heathrow airport with one suitcase in hand and many big dreams in tow, he landed in Nashville 12 years ago.

English-bred turned Nashville native, Nash is without question amongst this city's finest gems. You will see his magnificent paintings hanging on the walls of homes and commercial spaces alike. Nash has built and continues to define his career on the art of translation, relying solely on his intuitive gift of interpretation. His creative mind works in ways most cannot fathom. Whether it is a commissioned piece or one acquired from his ever-evolving vast and significant portfolio, the ways in which Nash decodes each client's needs allows him to bring out the best in whichever environment his presence graces.

Present within each is a poised balance of color and texture, ultimately creating a unique experience full of subjective interpretation. Some might hold a whisper of a landscape while others create a surreal ambiance of nature; they are all undoubtedly hard to miss. With just a simple gaze, his intention and passion is clearly found in each brush stroke. From cool and calm to bold and vibrant, the rich palates within Nash's dynamic, large-scale paintings trigger a meaningful metamorphosis and confirm the elevated profound beauty that Nash's art is so revered for achieving. There is never a doubt as to whether his work will be an appropriate addition to any space as his art transcends any category of décor. Whether his work finds its new home in a traditional abode, a commercial context or a modern manner, once installed, it is so effortlessly apparent that they are all exactly where they were born to be.

As seen in the photo to the right, Editor-in-Chief, Britt Steele and the Publisher, her husband, Fabrizio Venuta, both know a good thing when they see it. Shortly after moving to

Nashville from Tuscany, they quickly became avid fans of Nash's work and continued the natural progression of joining a long list of his loyal patrons. After experiencing many of Nash's pieces in various settings around town, it was only a matter of time before their dream of commissioning one of their own came true. "What we both savored the most overall was continuously being granted the luxury to indulge in our imagination," Steele said. "Over this four month process, it was remarkable to witness the way in which Ed took all of our ideas for this piece and turned each one of them into a calculated application on the disk, resulting in a work of art that beyond surpassed our vision."

And from this, "Etna" was born. This piece was commissioned in honor of Venuta's Sicilian roots, as he was born and raised in Catania, home to the tallest active volcano in Europe, Mount Etna. Venuta's childhood memories are full of days spent taking advantage of the snow-kissed slopes present during the winter months due to Mount Etna's high altitude of over 11,000 feet. Venuta never took for granted the spectacular experience of skiing down an active volcano with the mesmerizing full panorama of the Mediterranean Sea surrounding him during each descent. These are exactly the memories Venuta is fortunate to relive when glancing at Nash's piece that so proudly hangs in their entryway. The striking resemblance of Mount Etna is not only due to the vibrant color palette and ultra-violet pigments within, but also due to the LED light mounted behind this 4ft circular-shaped disk. The sensation of feeling as if one is literally in the presence of the moving molten lava is simply thrilling.

We have been graciously granted exclusive access to some of the most shining examples of the unique type of renowned personality that only Nash's art is capable of adding. As a result of the presence of each of his pieces, these now elevated environments illustrate and serve as a strong reminder of what a beautiful blessing art is in general on any space in which it is present. By showcasing some of his work in full context, we hope you enjoy the sophisticated experience in the pages that follow.





As seen in this home, it is immediately apparent why the homeowner chose these paintings as they each bring such life to both spaces. The rooms, very strategic in their design, showcase his work in a way that is muted but recognized. “My home has quite a lot of intricate millwork that lends to a formal feel and I wanted an outstanding large piece of art in an abstract style to offset the formality,” notes the homeowner, Pamela Bollinger.

“What I saw in Ed’s work was exactly what I needed. Each piece has such a stunning presence. To me, they each have a rock star personality,” Bollinger exclaims when describing what exactly drew her attention to the work of Nash. While perfection manifests itself in many different ways, it is remarkable how poetically these pieces blend into their surroundings, each becoming powerfully impactful on these spaces in their own intimate way.





This home, residing in Belmont Park, takes the element of Nash's pieces to the next level. Placed on the back wall of the grand hallway, hangs a three-dimensional cracked surface that incorporates real volcanic lava rock, sawdust and ultraviolet pigment. Appropriately named the "Terrian" series, the lava rock

pieces are engaging both visually and physically. The design was so perfectly executed that it appears as if the lava is moving. This series is often backlit with LED lights so it appears to be floating off the wall. In the living spaces, cool colors of blues, greens and grays breathe the refinement and elegance created by the hands of Nash.





This inviting, cozy and perfectly poised space so clearly has the influence of the late Landy Gardner all over it. Gardner created a perfectly harmonious space, relying on the fine and renowned craftsmanship of Robbie Barnhart of Nashville Custom Woodwork while incorporating the lushly rich fabrics of Electra Ecclestone. However, he had yet to find a painting for above the fireplace. Once graciously invited in, Nash's innate gift of an insanely accurate instinct served him well as he had, per usual, an almost immediate sense of the solution. While this particular piece was one that he'd

created months prior, true to form, it looks custom-created for the space. "As soon as I took this piece into their home, the clients fell in love with it," explains Nash. The clients had traveled the country in search of the perfect piece to fill the void above the mantle. Crossing many state lines, their search took them on a long journey, one that ultimately ended at the same place from which it initially departed, finding exactly what they had been seeking for so long right here at home in Nashville. This is, of course, a great testament to what Nashville's world of art has to offer.



Above is yet another striking illustration of how eloquently Nash's art harmonizes into any environment. As seen in the newly renovated practice of nationally-renowned and Nashville-based Oculofacial Plastic Surgeon, Dr. Brian Biesman, Nash's work not only hangs proudly upon the entrance but his patients are fortunate to enjoy Nash's paintings in two additional places throughout his practice. Unwavering attention to beauty and detail has always remained the solid foundation at the center of it all for Dr. Biesman.

The poised precision, equally matched by his highly skilled staff, is applied to all that he does, not just in the meticulous care for his patients but also in creating an environment as if it were a metaphor for how beauty lies within. And that it does, especially within the walls of his practice located at 345 23rd Avenue North. Dr. Biesman sought Nash's influence to curate a series of paintings that closely mirrored his work and together, they successfully created an elegant atmosphere that exudes quite sophistication.



Set up high in the woods of Você in Brentwood, this house has spectacular views over Richland Country Club and beyond. The homeowners created a beautiful, calm space and sought a painting that would harmoniously compliment the overall aesthetic while not overpowering the more formal elements of the room. They

intentionally chose this particular piece with warm, purple hues as it was the perfect poignant balance of color to enhance the atmosphere. Delicately placed above the fireplace and next to the grand piano, it says it all without saying much. It is a lovely, simplistic touch that gives balance and serenity to the space.



With each piece requiring an immense amount of precision and time, it shouldn't come to a surprise that having a functioning art studio/gallery where patrons could visit and enjoy, while Nash had the space and freedom to create, was pinnacle. Upon arrival, you will see what pieces are fresh on the easel, which pieces are drying between layers of thickly spread paint, and what is ready to be given a new home.

Not only is the studio beautifully curated, but it is also a behind the scenes look at how and why Ed Nash Art is thriving in Nashville. Should you wish to take a tour, make sure to allocate plenty of time, as the space is over 7,000 square feet with captivating eye candy on every square inch.

From a small suitcase in a foreign city, to now having installations that reside in the very airport in which he arrived 12 years ago, Nash has undoubtedly elevated the world of creativity and artisanship in Nashville. The dream he so greatly sought to achieve has become a reality and one thing is for sure, our walls, like those of countless others, are far more beautiful because of it. However, he won't stop there as Nash remains driven to continue to change the game and we look forward to seeing what he comes up with next. In the meantime, he is a beautiful reminder that dreams do come true.

Stop by the Ed Nash Art studio at 1015 W Kirkland Ave Suite 414 or give him a call: 615.496.2402