

# Robert Allen

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Bob Allen was born and raised in the Midwest, an influence visible in his fearless fusion of industrial materials and in the strong earthen colors of his color palette. To date, his resume reads merchant seaman, longshoreman, truck driver, photographer of the U.S. Army, art director, film maker, pastor and school teacher. Due to a recent since resolved battle with blindness, Bob has a renewed appreciation for his natural talent in the visual arts. His weakened eyesight, rather than burdening the artist, has contributed to the unique, abstracted way in which he views and depicts the world.

Bob's work exudes physicality. He alternatively excavates and constructs forms to create a complex topography across the surfaces of his works that effectively project light and shadow. His confident and often surprising combinations of various materials, textures, patterns, shapes and colors are reflective of his own fascinating multi-layered biography. His painting, *Mardis Gras*, is a creation of exploding colors and shapes that symbolizes the excitement and power of *Mardis Gras* in New Orleans. The painting was a 2010 award winner in the Summer Walk Art Show in Denver, Colorado.

According to Bob, creativity is like a puzzle, the solution to which falls secondary to the means to get there. In his own words, "The act of creativity is much more important than the finished work." This drives him to believe that many of his paintings are never finished but rather simply await another design intervention. His unique style has appeared to many interior designers that have placed his works in private homes, offices, restaurants and hotels across the country.

## PIECES IN THE COLLECTION

### Music Man

Acrylic and Oil Crayon on Canvas  
42" X 48"

Entered into Collection in 2015  
Purchased from Gallery 72  
Omaha, NE

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

When I first encountered the play "Music Man" I was a senior at Shaw High School in East Cleveland, Ohio. The year was 1963 and I was working as the set designer for the production. I was asked to create the cover of the play's program. My design included many symbols that were part of the stage production - exploding colors like a fireworks show, the stars and stripes, the orderly marching of the band, represented by the various boxes cutting across the center, etc. The play was set during the autumn time in Indiana and was full of orange and yellows. Consequently, the program's cover design included oranges and yellows as the preeminent color scheme. All these thoughts ran through my mind as I painted the "Music Man" painting. I hope the viewers of this work can feel the excitement of that stage play that was presented on that high school stage so many years ago.