

SPOTLIGHT ON ... MARCO CUTRONE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010

THE RECORD

The [Denville](#) artist's work will be featured beginning today at the [Paterson Museum](#) in an exhibit titled "Recent Works: Figures and Flowers."

HIS INFLUENCES: For Cutrone, art began with family. He followed his cousin, actor and artist Federico Castelluccio, to the New York School of Visual Arts. Cutrone describes Castelluccio, who played Furio on "The Sopranos," as a tough critic.

"As far as level of ability, I strive to paint as well as he does," Cutrone says. When Castelluccio first complimented his cousin's work, Cutrone became an artist in his own mind.

THE THEME: Color and composition tie Cutrone's pieces together. "I feel like we've had such a rough couple of years, all of us," says the 44-year-old artist. "I think that every once in a while, just looking at a flower or painting a flower — it lifts my spirits."

THE MEDIUM: Cutrone keeps it simple. "I love the pencil and oil paint," he says. "What one can do with just a graphite pencil can amaze you." Pencil on plain white paper creates contrast and resembles a "realistic, black-and-white photograph."

After 20 years, Cutrone rarely uses his eraser. "You just turn it into something that works," he says.

PLAYING FAVORITES: "I kind of feel like the latest [painting] that you've done should be your favorite," Cutrone says. He pursues the feeling of "breaking new ground" and a sense of accomplishment in his work — an artistic certainty you "can't own 100 percent of the day."

"It's just the moment that you step back and look at [your painting] and say, 'OK. I've done it, I've created what I wanted to create,'" he says.

THE MESSAGE: Cutrone knows sometimes life gets in the way, but offers this encouragement: "Draw. Paint. Instead of all the distractions in life ... just do something instead of watching life pass you by."

DETAILS: Opening reception 6 tonight. Exhibit runs through Sept. 6. 2 Market St., [Paterson](#). Call [973-321-1260](tel:973-321-1260) for more information.

— Catherine Trautwein



'Early Spring Gathering' is one of the recent works by Marco Cutrone on display at the Paterson Museum through Sept. 6.