

The Transformation of Line: The Drawings & Paintings of Michael Prodanou

The architectural design process generally begins with a rough sketch, sometimes on a napkin or note pad, but most often on tracing paper, which allows for layering and rapid adjustments. Sketching is gestural: quick, searching lines of varying dimension that seek to define shape and form. As the process continues, lines can become more deliberate and thoughtful as schematics become dimensional with the introduction of color, value and perspective to create three-dimensional form.

Michael Prodanou graduated with a degree in Architecture from the University of Toronto and went on to work with the prestigious architectural firm, The Architects Collaborative, designing work for clients all over the world. After leaving TAC in 1976, to establish his own practice, his firm worked on commercial and residential projects in the Mid-East, Europe, Canada, and the USA, including consulting for the US State Department. In 1999 he sold his practice and began, in earnest, to draw and paint the figure. For the past 20 years he has investigated the human form through a variety of mediums.

This exhibition displays what could constitute a “sketch” of Prodanou’s voluminous body of work executed over these past two decades. His dedication to expanding his vision through countless drawings sessions with models and his transformation of these works into a unique hybrid of drawing/painting/collage serves as a testament to his passion for discovery. This search echoes that foundation established as an architect: the use of line to transform, discover and expand one’s subject. Michael Prodanou has created works that explore the notion of what line, color and shape can do in the service of the human figure. It brings us to the image of the body as a repository for the struggle to be human.