

a n t h o n y *g r a v i a n o*



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*g r o u n d z e r o*

When terrorism struck and many in the affected area of ground zero abandoned their homes and businesses, artist Anthony Graviano remained in his studio. On September 11, and for months thereafter, he went down to the ground zero site by day and painted by night. In bold strokes and vivid color, he drew directly from his experience of the aftermath.

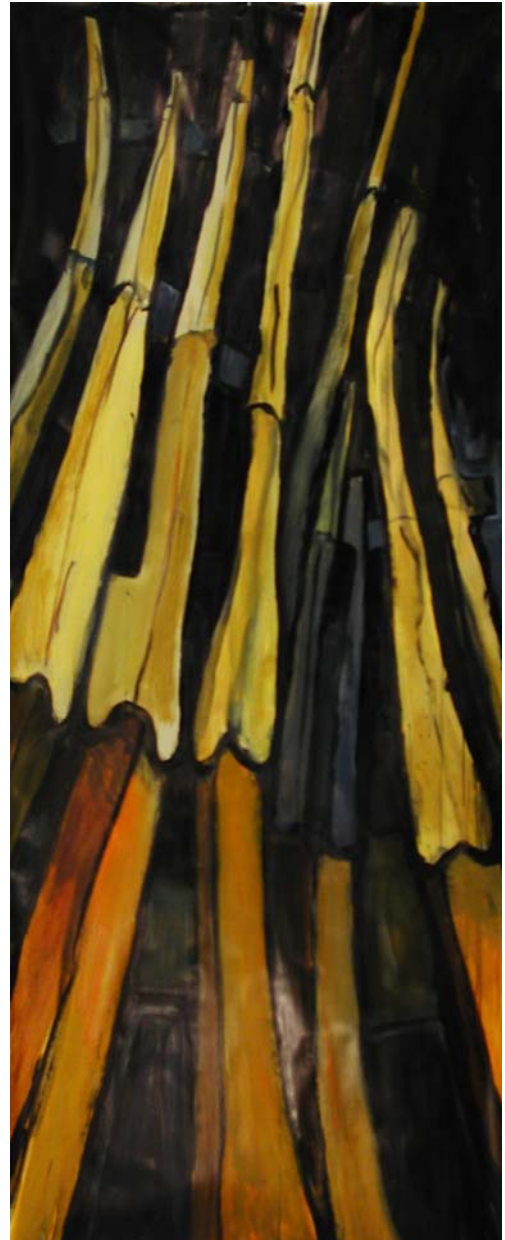
Graviano sought out images of objects that, at once familiar and unreal, had somehow survived. His focus on what endured the tragedy initially materialized on a subconscious level. He later realized, with fervent hope resonating the affected area, he could not have focused on anything else.

"I scoured the wreckage for representations of the human spirit, which despite extreme destruction was resilient, as it not only could survive but would." He painted structures sculptured by fire, some taken from photographs, others imprinted in his mind deeply beyond their life on canvas.

As Anthony worked in his ground floor studio just above Canal Street, he left his doors open, as he generally does. Passersby peaked in on the artist and, at such a sensitive time, many expressed their feelings. While some screamed that he should burn in hell for making these paintings, others cried stating his works speaks everything they could not put into words.



"tower #1"  
125" x 48"  
acrylic on paper



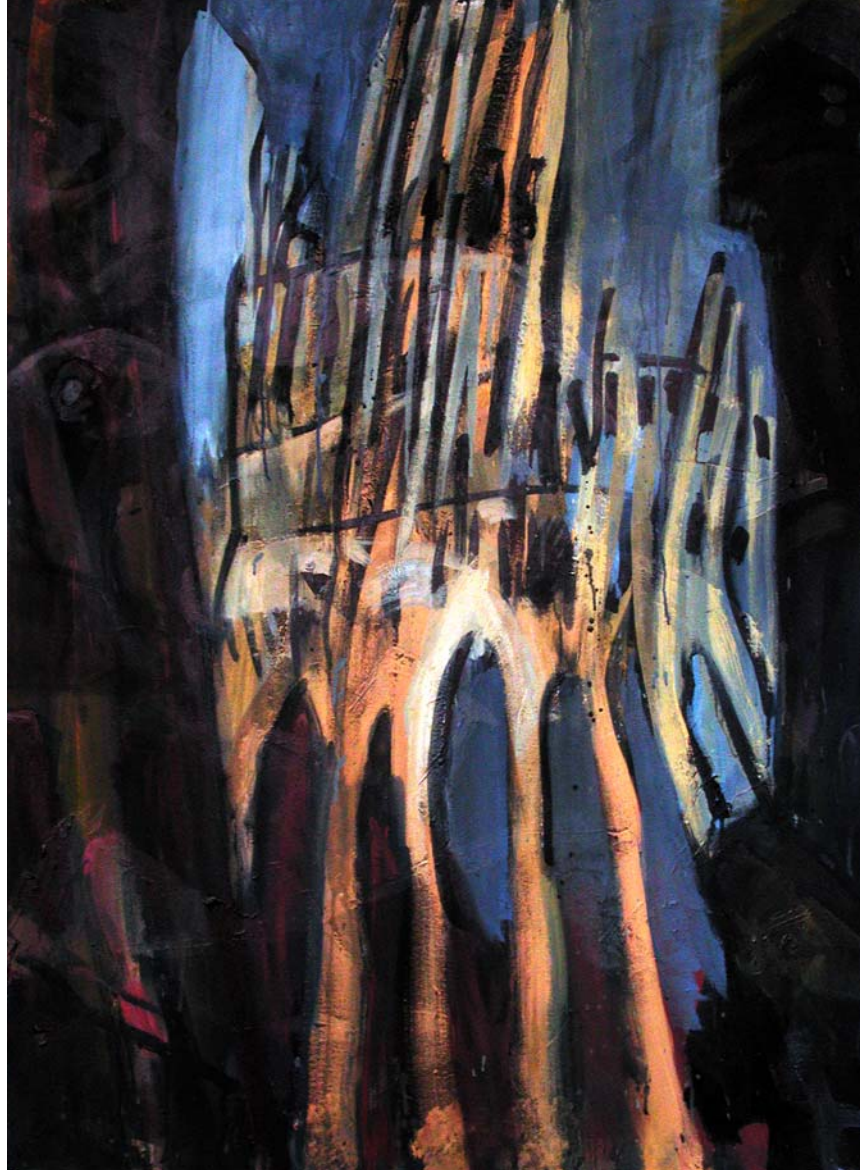
"tower #2"  
125" x 48"  
acrylic on paper



"wings"  
94" x 67"  
acrylic on canvas



"turbine"  
94" x 67"  
acrylic on canvas



"untitled"  
48" x 32"  
acrylic on canvas



The whole world has an objective view of the tragedy. They know the facts and well know the blatant images fed to them by the media. The present intent of the artist and his supporters is to have the show travel. People need to experience it, whatever their reaction may be. This collection is a slice of history, emoted by one who experienced it; translated in a fashion that captures the element of devastation contrasted with the strength that devastation incited. The greater hope is to offer the world a poignantly subjective view of the World Trade Center tragedy.

The paintings are large (94 x 67 inches on average), with one towering at over twelve feet (151 x 83 inches), in acrylic on canvas. The paintings are abstract, focusing on different aspects of what survived, from building structures to an airplane wheel. The paintings are so powerful that, preliminary viewers were moved before even realizing what inspired the work.

**Anthony Graviano**

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**Born:**

Yonkers, New York 1968

Lives and works in New York City

**Education:**

Suny College at Purchase, Purchase N.Y.,B.F.A. 1990

New York Studio School, 1989

**Selected Exhibitions:**

Ground Zero, in conjunction with Artfirm project Gallery SOHO,N.Y., May,2002

Playground of the Fearless, Curated by Alfredo Martinez, Nori Jung, James Fuentes, 2001

Kama Sutra, Embraces, SOHO N.Y., 2001

Ne'er Do Wells, SOHO N.Y., 2000

The Grant Gallery, SOHO N.Y., 2000

Ragnorack, Chelsea N.Y., 1999

Royal College of Art, London,1999

Artists Space, 38 Green, N.Y., 1998

TMX Fine Arts, The Viewing Room, N.Y., 1998

Royal College of Art, London, 1997

The Cursio Gallery, N.Y., N.Y.,1996

**Selected Bibliography:**

Merenzon, Eli, Artists of New York, Anthony Graviano, New Russian Word, 2001

Smith, Roberta, Ne'er Do Wells, The New York Times, 2000

Schmerler, Sarah, The Art of The Dealer, Time Out, 1999