

Blumenstilleben No. 155, 2003, oil on canvas, 60-1/4 x 72 inches

## ANTON HENNING, THE PAINTER

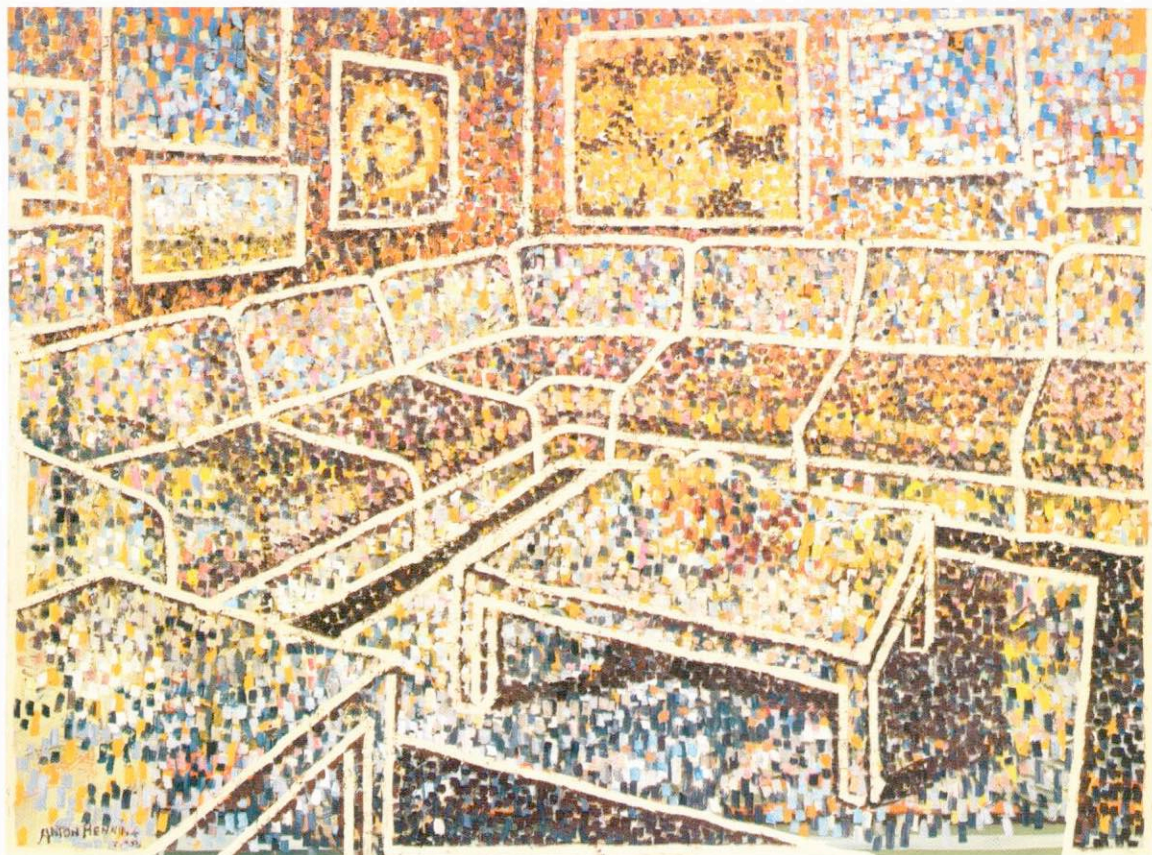
by Jean-Christophe Ammann

Anton Henning is anarchistic and passionate. His intelligence is intuitive and he has a truffle-hound's nose. Qualities not often found in contemporary art. Antiquated, one might say. Yet they point the way forward. I cannot follow Henning down every path he takes, among other things because his work is constantly undermining our ideas of what a picture is. Yet he paints as the "sculptor of yore" once created his works—bodily. However, while the sculptor and the "instinctive painter" went one way, Henning goes many. Painting for Henning serves as a quintessential set of possibilities, yet it remains authentic, avoiding quotation and irony.

There was a time when painting, by following its own laws, captured the zeitgeist and pushed stylistic developments forward (Fauvism, Cubism, Constructivism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, etc.).

Today painting is quite literally a resource to be drawn on—both treasure-house and quarry. Something remarkable is happening. In place of the discourse of painting, with its own momentum, the painter, with his own momentum, is taking over. In Anton Henning's case, it is the senses that are orchestrated: smelling, tasting, hearing, feeling, touching. And like the artist Alighiero Boetti before him, he also treats thought as an additional sensory organ. In fact, to me Anton Henning is the painter incarnate. He thinks with his body; he lives a process thoroughly osmotic; he practices the capacity for attachment and detachment, zeal and self-irony. But he does not ironize the irony. He knows there are traps he has set for himself, and he walks into them with unabashed delight. He marvels at the world and at himself.





Interieur No. 208, 2003, oil on canvas, 104 x 140 inches.



Pin Up No. 63, 2002, oil on canvas, 37-1/4 x 49-1/2 inches

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## ANTON HENNING

*Was ihr wollt!*

*July 18 - August 30, 2003*

*Reception:  
Friday, July 18, 6 - 8 pm*

*front:  
Flugzeug im Mondlicht No. 1, 2000, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 inches*

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