

## **Stelios Stylianou**

### **Artist Statement**

Growing up on the north shore of eastern long Island in the 1990's. I remember spending many hours exploring the surrounding woods, the tracks of power lines, greenbelts and emerging construction sites of the Mc Mansions. I remember the experience of witnessing the transition of my neighborhood from a rural to suburban landscape. Within the shrinking bubbles of woodlands you might encounter the rusting remains abandoned cars, forgotten root cellars and vestigial radio towers partially reclaimed by nature. I am interested in this blending of nature and technology and how the element of time weathers our structures.

I currently have two working series, plein aire paintings and collage paintings. I enjoy setting up an easel and painting in nature with my wife and kids. I think of these on location paintings as a form of meditation they become a two hour observation recorded in paint.

The painted collage work is inspired by my love of science fiction. I recently read Gerard O'neil's book the High Frontier and discovered the phrase space island. The concept of a self enclosed isolated habitat connected to other isolated cells via internet is analogous to my experience of this strange time of quarantine.

I live in Rocky Point with my wife Michelle where we create art and teach together. As co-proprietor of StudioE, a local Art Education center, I teach drawing, painting and ceramics to children and adults. I also enjoy participating in local live painting and collaborative art events.

Living by the philosophy that being creative improves quality of life, I continue to produce works of art that may in turn inspire others to be imaginative.