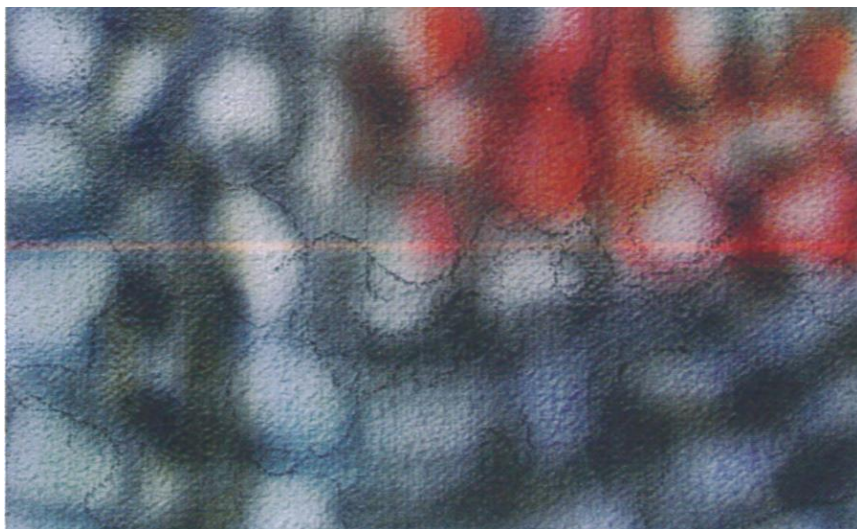


An Art Encounter

“There is no way I could do the paintings I do today if I had not spent twelve years painting what most people call non-objective paintings. I learned to think only in terms of color, shape, form, texture and pattern....this gave me the freedom to work up close on area and never consider the subject.”

Don Coen

Although Don Coen’s portraits are generally classed as “realist,” when viewed up close they dissolve into soft, abstracted patterns of line and color. Below is a detail from *Manuel*. Can you locate this detail within the larger painting? Does it help you understand the freedom of technique that Coen describes in the quotation above?



An Art Encounter

“Strawberries...are nicknamed *la fruto del diablo* (the devil’s fruit) because pickers have to bend over all day.”

This quotation from a December 16, 2010 article in *The Economist* perhaps sheds a new light on the succulent fruit so many of us enjoy eating. The laborer interviewed in the article also spoke of the difficulties of picking strawberries in cold weather, which makes the back pain from stooping worse.

Consider the pickers in the background of this painting. Try mirroring their positions and think about spending several hours like that.

Have you ever picked strawberries from a field? What was your experience like?