

May 19 through August 16, 2020

Featuring Familiar Friends

works by

James Mages
of Hays, Kansas

Statement

My interest in art is to engage the vision into the work itself, capturing images relevant to the vision and interpret it to their underlying experiences. Exploring nature and the elements within its creation challenges me to capture certain aspects of its beauty. Design within nature is constantly being discovered. This is reflected in the creative process at the beginning stages of sketching.

Each media requires different processes in order to master the techniques needed to create a project. This is a challenge, and it is exciting. Nature is my chief source of inspiration. The detail, color, pattern, and textures stimulate a desire to study and imagine a re-creation of the natural environment. Various size relationships are an intricate part of the design aspect of the creation. In conjunction with shape, the space around the shapes dictates the importance of their relations. Too much uniformity in the arrangements tends to dull the viewers' attention. The use of curves, free flowing lines, and shapes allows continuous involvement in the art piece.

Creating tension by the use of movement, weaving in and out, back and forth, helps develop depth. Shadow patterns lend to the final stages of reality in the art piece.

The use of light striking a piece plays an important role in creating a certain aspect of reality. Just as the sun plays on the real world causing shadow patterns naturally, this finishes the depth within each piece of art.

James Mages

Biography

I am a native of Kansas who grew up in a small town in western Kansas, where my next-door neighbor was a wheat field. After getting my Master of Arts degree at Fort Hays State University, I began my teaching career as an art instructor at



Fabulous Flipper Focusing
by James Mages

Hays High School in Hays, Kansas. Later in my teaching career, I decided to get my Master of Fine Arts degree. Teaching and inspiring young adults was the highlight of my career and my true passion; I have enjoyed seeing how my former students have excelled in life and this brings great joy to my heart. Also, I have continued to pursue art competitions both locally and nationally.

Teaching allowed me to gain the experience of working with various types of media from digital imagery to sculptures in various materials. Additionally, designing commissioned artwork that is on display in various locations in Hays, Kansas is a passion that I have continued to pursue after completing my career as a high school art teacher.

Besides designing, I have been able to pursue other passions in my life following my retirement. I have found great gratification in many different means including creating large scale sculptures, exhibiting in galleries, entering juried shows, and investing my time in others, especially my ministry which allows me to help local youth and disadvantaged persons experience the outdoors through fishing and hunting expeditions.

There are new challenges ahead and looking forward to what they will bring in the future as I explore new and limitless possibilities both in art and in life.

James Mages



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