

MEDITATIONS IN WATERCOLOR

Paintings by Mark Grosserode



"How moving, even beautiful, almost anything can be if we regard it with enough attention." Michael Cuddihy



Magic Sam's Carpet, 2010, watercolor, 15 x 22 in.

Artist Statement

Growing up, I never dreamed that art would become so central to my life, but there were clues. Those early years were important in developing my artistic vision. The small Nebraska town where I spent my most formative years allowed me to know people from all walks of life. I had great appreciation for the brick streets and buildings of our downtown, as well as the white, clapboard homes that populated the residential areas. These memories fueled my interest in portraiture and architecture as art.

**Birger Sandzén
Memorial Gallery
Lindsborg, Kansas
May 4 through
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My mother also added to my motivation to pursue art. She studied art in

college and I was impressed with her abilities. Despite the fact that she had 7 children - the first 5 in less than six years - she continued her art practice. Her sketching ability was uncanny.

As an undergraduate, I had an intense interest



For A Day, 2015, watercolor, 28 x 20 in.



From the High Line, 2022, watercolor, 32 x 28 in.



Kateri, 2013, watercolor,
21 x 13 in.

in science. Once I entered medical school, I quickly came to realize that in order to be content, I needed a creative outlet. Therefore, in 1983 I began drawing and would continue for the next 15 years. This gave me a greater understanding of composition, value contrasts, and form. Ultimately it made me a more detail-oriented painter.

I turned to watercolor in the late '90s. Initially my considerations were practical: it dries quickly, is relatively inexpen-



Wintering, 2014, watercolor,
15 x 21 in.



Bermuda Walkway, 2014, watercolor,
16.5 x 26.5 in.



Wethersfield Window, 2014,
watercolor, 17.5 x 11.5 in.

sive, and can be done in a small space. It didn't take me long to understand the magical properties of this medium. I have also painted with egg tempera and oils but I prefer watercolor.



False Starts, 2014, watercolor, 18 x 27 in.



From Above, 2015, watercolor, 18 x 27 in.

I retired from my medical practice in 2012 in order to paint full time. Up to that point, I had been self-trained and as such, had some deficiencies. Fortunately, I met fellow watercolorists Monte Toon and Anke Dodson, they helped me to fill in the blanks. Best of all, we became fast



Mohegan Sunflowers, 2016, watercolor,
19 x 27.5 in.



Out To Sea, 2016, watercolor,
12 x 18 in.



Foggy Harbor Maine, 2016, watercolor,
19.5 x 28 in.



American Ciphers, 2017, watercolor, 23 x 35 in.



Prairie Church, 2019, watercolor, 18 x 27 in.

friends, sharing our passion for art.

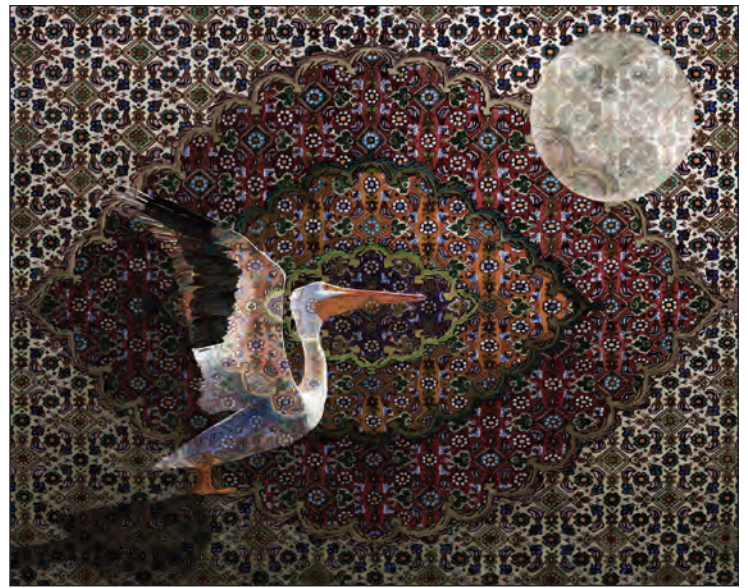
Future goals include gaining signature status with the American Watercolor Society and producing limited edition prints. I hope that my approach will be more experimental and perhaps more personal. Working as an infectious disease specialist made me acutely aware of the trials that people face every day. Considering that experience, I avoid negativity in my art practice. Also, I work slowly, so I might spend 3 to 9 months with the same subject, I want this to be a positive experience.



Yesterday and Today, 2020, watercolor, 25 x 27.5 in.



Yukon's Best, 2020, watercolor, 17.5 x 34.5 in.



Persian Night, 2019, watercolor, 27 x 35 in.

Photography has been an important part of my artistic journey. Improvements in my photographic practice have carried over into my paintings, and I hope to improve this further. For me, it is all about achieving one's artistic vision because, after all, art is not a thing but an idea. It is beyond being something to look at, it is something that happens to you. And with that, I will leave you with one final quote:

"Nurture the creative spark within, before self-doubt and the demands of daily life combine to snuff it out."

John Graham

Biography

I was born at the close of the 1950s in a small, eastern Nebraska farming community. My father was a pharmacist and my mother a homemaker and amateur artist. She later returned to college and then worked as a social worker. I had seven brothers and sisters; I was the middle child.

I attended college at the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1981 with a degree in Life Sciences. Medical school followed



Imagination and Apparition, 2021, watercolor, 30 x 24 in.



Caribbean Poet, 2022, watercolor, 17.5 x 11.5 in.

'90s I took up watercolor. I began showing my work in 2015. Award winning shows have included Tulsa May-fest, Independence KS Art Center, Artists of Northwest Arkansas Region Art Exhibition, and Watercolor USA, where I was awarded the Robert E. Goodier Memorial Award for Traditional Transparent Watercolor in 2022.

In 2019 my painting *American Ciphers* was accepted by the American Watercolor Society and shown at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Another acceptance followed in 2023 when I showed *From the High Line* in New York.

I am a signature member of the Watercolor USA Honor Society and after one more acceptance, I will become a signature member of the American Watercolor Society.

and after graduation in 1986, I did a residency in Internal Medicine. I studied Infectious Disease at the University of Iowa and in 1992 started my medical practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I retired from medicine in 2012 and have painted full time since. My wife Ruth and I continue to live in Tulsa. We have a daughter who is married and they have given us one grandchild. We also have a cat named Sam.

My art practice began in 1983 when I started drawing with pencil. In the late



Orange Sky, 2023, 16 x 26 in.



Southerly, 2023, watercolor, 18 x 18 in.



The Appointment, 2024, watercolor, 24 x 24 in.



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MEMORIAL GALLERY

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Cover image: Mark Grosserode at work in his studio, 2025