

Jim Mott

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Fine Art

I paint and draw primarily in response to the visual environment, our common surroundings, emphasizing both sensitive observation and the expressive interplay of self, subject, and materials. Since 2000 I have focused on socially interactive projects and presentations aimed at extending the creative dialogue and making art a more integral part of other people's everyday experience.

Born New York, NY 1960

Education

B.S., Environmental Science, State University of New York, Brockport, 1995

M.F.A., Painting, University of Michigan School of Art and Design, 1985

B.A., Visual Studies; Religion, Dartmouth College, 1982 (*Cum Laude* with High Distinction)

Professional Experience

Independent Visual Artist, Rochester, NY, 1985 - Present

Visiting Speaker (part-time/occasional), 2000 - Present

Environmental Consultant (freelance) Rochester, NY, 1995 - Present

Research Assistant in American Cultural & Intellectual History, Univ. of Rochester, 1985 - 1986

Selected Projects

The Itinerant Artist Project (IAP), 2000 - Present: Integrating personal painting practice with radical public outreach, collaboration, and performance, this ongoing project has developed around a series of national, regional, and local-scale painting tours – “exchanging art for hospitality across the USA.” For an average of one month per year I live with a series of volunteer hosts, at each stop staying 2-4 days and creating a set of small paintings responding to the immediate surroundings – one of which I give to my host. Among other things, the IAP explores the effects of embedding a personal creative practice in other people's everyday lives, art's capacity for connection-building, and unconventional forms of dialogue and exchange. The IAP has generated national and international recognition, as well as popular exhibits and presentations. See: www.jimmott.com.

The Rochester Community Artist in Residence Tour (ROC-ART), 2010 - 2011: A distinctive variation on the IAP theme, ROC-ART involved living and painting in strangers' households in a series of locations in and around my home town, Rochester, NY – approximately one stop per month over the course of a year. I used painting to engage with, explore, and convey the sense of place in settings ranging from farmland to inner city to suburban tracts, often, in the process, crossing invisible

boundaries that separate segments of the Rochester community from each other. The experience was documented with a blog (www.jimmott.blogspot.com) and culminated in an exhibit of 75 paintings.

Urban Art Encounters, 1995-Present: Stationing myself in selected, well-traveled urban spaces not typically associated with art – parking lots, work places, commercial districts, residential and recreational areas – I use my presence as a working artist (sketching or painting) to disrupt the public's routinized experience of place and give those who frequent these places an opportunity to reconsider the possibly overlooked potential of their surroundings for aesthetic, emotional, or contemplative connection. Encounters include discussions and providing supplies to those who want to participate in the art-making activity. Locations have included Brooklyn, Tucson, Seattle, Memphis, Rochester.

Selected Reviews, Articles & Media

Great Lakes Review, *The Art of Connection*, Interviewed by Ani DiFranco, Oct. 2012

Represent (blog by Dave Dorsey): *The Renouncer*, Dec. 2011

Out of Bounds Radio Show: Artist Interview by Tish Pearlman, Sept. 2011

Democrat & Chronicle, Rochester, NY: *In the Loop* (exhibition review), Aug. 2011

City Newspaper, Rochester, NY: *Jim Mott: Road Art 2000-2009* (exhibition review), Dec. 2009

Dartmouth Alumni Magazine: *Artful Lodger*, Carolyn Kylstra, June 2008

NBC TODAY Show, American Story: *Art for Hospitality*, Jan. 2008 (video available online)

CBC Radio Q: *Artist Trades Art for Room, Board, and a Speeding Ticket*, Oct. 2007

Christian Science Monitor, Back Page Feature: *Itinerant Artist*, by Ray Sikorski, Oct. 2007

Art Business News: *Small Art, Giant Appeal*, by Maja Tarateta, Apr. 2003

American Artist: *Coast to Coast*, by Alan Singer, Feb. 2002

City Newspaper: *Building the Perfect Painting*, (exhibition review), Mar. 2000

Awards/Honors

Saltonstall Foundation Residency, Ithaca, NY, Summer 2012

Artist in Residence (by invitation), State of the Art Gallery, Ithaca, NY, Aug. 2011

New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Grant, 2010

Rome Residency, Rome Art and Community Center, Rome, NY, June 2009

Creative Capital Grant Finalist*, 2007 (*for a landscape painter from western NY this is an honor)

New York State Council on the Arts Grant, 2003

Blue Mountain Center Residency (by invitation), 2001

Saltonstall Foundation Painting Grant, 1997

New York State/Monroe County LIFT Grant, 1986

Marcus Heimann Award for Creative Excellence, Dartmouth College, 1982

Selected Exhibitions (* solo shows marked by asterisk)

- 2013* *Jim Mott*, Bausch + Lomb Geisell Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2012* *Jim Mott/ROC-ART*, High Falls Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2011* *The Ithaca Project*, State of the Art Gallery, Ithaca, NY
- 2011 *State of the City*, Rochester Contemporary Gallery (curated show) , Rochester, NY
- 2010* *Itinerant Artist Project 10 Year Retrospective*, St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY
- 2009* *Jim Mott: Road Art 2000-2009*, Mercer Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2009* *American Road Artist*, Rome Art and Community Center, Rome, NY
- 2008 *Landscape Diaries*, Bausch and Lomb Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2005 *Creative Conversations*, High Falls Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2003* *Farmland and Development*, Big Springs Museum, Caledonia, NY
- 2003* *The Itinerant Artist Project*, 1570 Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2001* *First Year of the Itinerant Artist Project*, Taylor Gallery, Meriden, NH

My art is found in private and institutional collections across the US, as well as private collections in Canada and Europe, including the collections of Ani DiFranco and John Irvin, and the permanent collection of the Memorial Art Gallery.

Artist Presentations and Lectures (selected)

- 2014 Phillips Academy, Andover, MA: Gallery talk and class talks on the Itinerant Artist Project
- 2013 The Highlands Forum, Rochester, NY: Public presentation on the Itinerant Artist Project
- 2012 Belle Fountain School, Camden, Ontario: Guest lecture on the Itinerant Artist Project
- 2012 Saltonstall Foundation, Ithaca, NY: Guest lecture on the Itinerant Artist Project
- 2012 The Center at High Falls, Rochester, NY: Public presentations on the ROC-ART project
- 2011 Maricopa County Community College, Phoenix, AZ
- 2010 Gunn Academy, Palo Alto, CA: Visiting Artist lecture series
- 2010 Saint John Fisher College, Rochester, NY: Public lecture on the Itinerant Artist Project
- 2009 Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY: Public lecture on the Itinerant Artist Project
- 2009 West Chester University, West Chester, PA: Art as Gift, sponsored by Philosophy Department
- 2008 Salinas High School, Salinas, CA: Visiting Artist
- 2008 Rome Arts and Cultural Center, Rome, NY: Lecture and workshop series during residency
- 2008 Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY: Public Lecture on the Itinerant Artist Project
- 2007 Gage Academy of Art, Seattle, WA: Guest Lecture
- 2007 Salt Lake City Public Library, Salt Lake City, UT: Public Lecture on the Itinerant Artist Project
- 2007 Sheridan College, Sheridan, WY: Guest lecture, Department of Art

Visiting Artist / Artist in Residence (selected)

- 2014 Phillips Andover Academy, Andover, MA: Visiting Artist
- 2012 Saltonstall Foundation Residency, Ithaca, NY: Painting Residency
- 2010 The Center at High Falls, Rochester, NY: Artist Residency
- 2010 Gunn Academy, Palo Alto, CA: Visiting Artist
- 2009 West Chester University, West Chester, PA: Visiting Artist
- 2008 Rome Arts and Cultural Center, Rome, NY: City of Rome Artist in Residence
- 2001 Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, NH: Artist in Residence

Workshops

My workshops include *Simple and Direct: Small Panel Landscape Painting for Today*; *The Shadow Landscape: Painting Sunset, Dusk and Night*; and *Sketching: the Art of Connection*. I have given workshops and demos mainly in Rochester, NY, Ithaca, NY and other locations in western New York, as well as in Seattle, WA, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, Palo Alto, CA, and Portsmouth, NH.

Publications

From the Ground Up: Landscape Painting on Colored Gesso, Inksmith, Spring 2007

Simple and Direct: Small Panel Oil Painting for Artists On The Go, Inksmith, Summer 2005

The Shadow Landscape: Painting on Black Gesso, Inksmith, Summer 1996, NH

Short Endorsements (relevant excerpts from selected reviews and recommendations)

Jim is redefining painting as a civil discourse that is intentionally situated in a community setting and mediated through his act of painting place. His skill as a plein air painter affords him a direct and unencumbered relationship with the public, creating a space where meaningful dialogue about place and belonging can occur.

- Paul Bartow, Co-collaborator, Bartow + Metzger
Advisor to Mildred's Lane, Contemporary Art Complex

At a time when the visual arts seem to be overtaken by the flat screen, Mott's active engagement with paint and people renews the deep connection between the artist and our surroundings. His thoughtful engagement with the landscape, the materials, and with everyday life provides a distinctive focus to the paintings created in his project... The results are impressive and comprise a body of work whose focus and manner of creation are singular.

- Marjorie B. Searl, Chief Curator
Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester

If anyone represents the ideal of what it should mean to be an artist right now, it's Jim Mott.

- Dave Dorsey, excerpted from *Represent* weblog