

Jeremiah Patterson - Artist Statement

Along with my admiration of Italian Renaissance Art, I also love the Dutch and Flemish masters, and work to capture a similar technical finesse in my own paintings. Striving to construct a believability of realistic forms and spaces, I build up fine tuned layers of color towards a finished composition that is both tactilely and spatially illusionistic. I work with both watercolor and egg tempera, employing glazes of saturated translucency to imbue the work with a luminosity that is unique to these mediums.

My primary compositional concern is to have the arrangement feel natural, as if the viewer just happened upon everything that is there, and all remains well within the realm of possibility. In addressing this concern, I arrange my settings to feel comfortable, such that the positions, poses and subjects seem natural and realistic. In this way, I also avoid overt fantasy and work hard to find the fine point between idealizing a form and the grit of its minute details. In choice of subject, I make subtle reference to certain themes I find in the Italian Renaissance and Flemish paintings I love, working to create compositions, which may touch on these timeless themes, but do so by revealing them in a contemporary, modern, and realistic way. My still life and figurative compositions have explored allegorical themes such as “The Four Seasons”, narrative themes such as “The Visitation & Annunciation”, as well as what I call my, “Kitchen Still Life Compositions” in which the combination of objects are the ingredients in a favorite recipe. I hope that these themes within my work form a backdrop to an image that highlights a beautiful moment of everyday life.