

Matt Tomko

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Qualifications Summary

I prolifically paint and exhibit my work which featuring nature and wildlife themes. In the past eight years I have held approximately twenty solo exhibitions, been included in approximately thirty-five group exhibitions, held ninety-five open studio events, and have had my work collected both nationally and internationally.

Educational Background and Professional Positions

- Working as a professional Artist, I have maintained a studio & exhibit space at the Golden Belt Arts Complex in Durham, North Carolina, since 2010.
- After a successful twenty-year career in Quality and Productivity Management, in 2009 I refocused on my work as a Painter, moved to Durham, North Carolina, and studied with Chad Hughes.
- My work has been significantly influenced by personal and lengthy experience in nature and I am largely self-taught. However, I studied under the direction of Judith Keats in Northeastern Pennsylvania during periods in the 1980's and again from 2007-2009.
- I earned a Bachelor of Arts/Mathematics from King's College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania in 1989

Arts Organizations

- Durham Art Guild, Durham NC Member (2010 -present), Board of Directors (2014-2018), Board of Directors Executive Committee (2015-2018)
- North Carolina Wildlife Art Society (Juried Membership), Summer 2011 - present
- Artists at Golden Belt (Juried Membership), Autumn 2010 - present

Summary of Creative Works

I have created paintings featuring the beauty of nature that have been accepted into numerous juried exhibitions. Selected solo and group shows and exhibits include:

- Arts in Health, solo exhibit entitled "In the Garden" at Duke Hospital, Durham, North Carolina, Jan – Mar 2015
- Sylvan Heights Bird Park, Scotland Neck NC (Juror: Mike Lubbock, Executive Director and Renowned Waterfowl Aviculturist), Mar 2014
- Face to Face Exhibit Durham Art Guild, Durham NC (Juror: Beverly McIver, Named "Top Ten in Painting" by Art in America in 2012), Mar 2014
- North Ridge CC Gala Exhibit, Raleigh NC (Juror: Jennifer Dassel, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art North Carolina Museum of Art), Feb 2013
- Various shows throughout North Carolina, Maryland, and Georgia as a juried Member of the North Carolina Wildlife Artist Society, 2012 - Present
- Exhibit and open studio every Third Friday of the month with Golden Belt Arts, Durham, North Carolina, 2010 – Present
- Numerous regional fairs, solo, and group exhibits in both Pennsylvania and North Carolina, 1981 - Present

My nature and wildlife paintings have been collected internationally for both public and private collections, often for the health benefits that these themes have on viewers. Some examples of collections in which my work is included are:

- Poinsett State Park, Wedgefield South Carolina
- Valeant Pharmaceuticals, Durham North Carolina
- Oydsoft curated collection (thirteen pieces) purchased for Beijing, China
- Cancer Center of NC, Healing Ceiling, Raleigh North Carolina
- UNC HCS Medical Office, Hillsborough North Carolina
- Bull City Smiles Dental Practice, Durham North Carolina
- James Finnegan, Poet, for the cover of a 2018 book of poetry in Ireland, Co-Donegal
- Norman Pendergraft, Private Collection, Former Director of the North Carolina Central University Art Museum
- Numerous private collections across twenty-two states, China, and England.

Along with the privilege of being able to create art, I have had the good fortune to be recognized for my work in the following additional ways:

- Cover Artist for the 2019 NC Wildlife Calendar, Fall 2018
- Cover Artist for the book Heron Clan V, Spring 2018
- Featured artist in the 2018 Eno River Association Calendar, Winter 2017
- Special Artist feature story in Hyco Lake Magazine, Spring 2017
- Cover Artist for the book Heron Clan IV, Spring 2017
- Artist in Residence, Poinsett State Park, South Carolina, Spring 2016
- Artist in Residence, Wildacres Retreat, Little Switzerland, North Carolina, Summer 2013
- TriArtSpark Blog Featured Artist, Autumn, 2013
- Featured in an article about Durham North Carolina Artists in ArtSee Magazine, Autumn 2011
- "Featured Artist" of the Triangle Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, Autumn 2009
- Various awards in regional Northeastern Pennsylvania competitions between 1980 and 1983