

Jim Mott

Fine Art

I paint and draw 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.

Education

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

Outreach Projects

The Itinerant Artist Project (IAP), 2000-Present: Integrating personal painting practice with radical public outreach, collaboration, and performance, this ongoing project is built around a series of national, regional, and local-scale painting tours, "exchanging art for hospitality across the US." For an average of one month per year I live with a series of volunteer hosts, at each stop: staying 2-4 days; creating a set of small paintings in response to the immediate surroundings; and giving one of the paintings to my host. Among other things, the IAP explores the effects of removing art from the gallery and the market economy and situating it within the context of other people's everyday lives. The IAP has generated national and international recognition, presentations and exhibits: www.jimmott.com.

Landscape Lottery Tucson, 2014-2015: A random number generator, used in collaboration with several volunteers from the public, was used to generate 15 random GPS points within the Greater Tucson area. For each point I made one or two small oil paintings based on what I found at the prescribed location. The project led to a series of memorable chance encounters with the city and its people – as well as a composite portrait of the metropolitan area that eludes, to a notable degree, personal prejudice and conventional expectations, providing both artist and viewer with a fresh experience of place, an opportunity to consider facets of everyday life that had gone unnoticed, either by being too far off the beaten path or too commonplace to draw attention.

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 the city of Rochester, NY – approximately one stop per month over the course of a year. I used painting to engage with, explore, and share 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 and culminated in a series of public exhibits and talks: www.jimmott.blogspot.com.

Urban Art Encounters, 1995-Present: Stationing myself in well-traveled urban spaces not typically associated with art – parking lots, work places, commercial districts, residential areas – I use my presence as a working artist 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 or emotional connection. Encounters include discussions and providing art supplies to those who want to participate. Locations include Brooklyn, Tucson, Memphis, Rochester.

Dazzle™: Dazzle is game of strategy, chance, and design which doubles as a socially interactive artform. Both a board game and an app, Dazzle was inspired by west African textiles, Native American ceramics and naval camouflage patterns developed in WWI: www.dazzlegame.com.

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

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

Selected Awards/Honors

New York State Council on the Arts Individual Artist Grant: 2018, 2010, 2003

Saltonstall Foundation Residency, Ithaca, NY, Summer 2015; Summer 2012

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

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

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

Blue Mountain Center Residency (by invitation), 2001

Saltonstall Foundation Painting Grant, 1997

Marcus Heimann Award for Creative Excellence, Dartmouth College, 1982

Selected Exhibitions (* solo shows marked by asterisk)

- 2017 *Points of Departure: Meditations on Mapping*, Mercer Gallery, Rochester, NY
- 2017 *Upstate Painting Invitational*, Main Street Arts, Clifton Springs, NY
- 2013* *Jim Mott*, Bausch and Lomb 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
- 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)

- 2017 *Adventure and Play: Creating Contexts for Sharing Art*, MCC, Rochester, NY
- 2016 *The Art of Connection*, Cener for Spirituality, Creativity and Justice, Rochester, NY
- 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
- 2011 *Maricopa County Community College*, Phoenix, AZ, Visiting Artist lecture series
- 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: Lectures on Creative Living and Art As Gift
- 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 IAP
- 2007 *Sheridan College*, Sheridan, WY: Guest lecture, Department of Art

Visiting Artist / Artist in Residence (selected)

- 2015 Mildred's Lane Art Complexity, Narrowsburg, NY
- 2012 Saltonstall Foundation Residency, Ithaca, NY: Painting Residency
- 2011 Maricopa County Community College, Phoenix, AZ: Visiting Artist
- 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

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.

Art-related 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

Short Endorsements (relevant excerpts from selected reviews and recommendations)

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 projects... Given the success of his previous ventures, there is little doubt that the result of his proposed project will be at least as impressive and will 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

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

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

- Dave Dorsey, excerpted from the *Represent* weblog