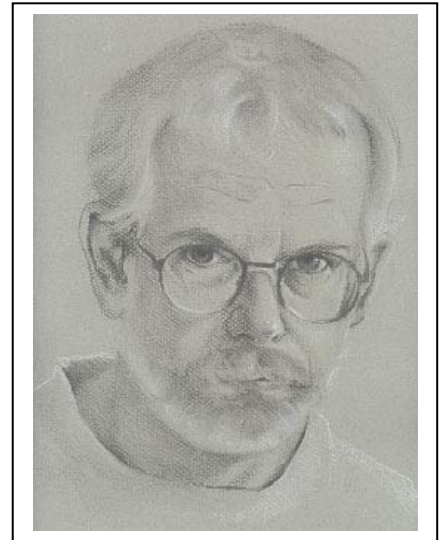


Biographical Sketch

MJ Koza has been challenging the idea of the landscape for the majority of his artistic life. In his work, we see the inscrutable interior human landscape that we know as portraiture, the quiet interior domestic landscape that we know as still life, and the rugged outdoor landscape of rural New Hampshire where he spent most of his life. If you can't be in New England to see first hand how "gorgeous" can legitimately be used to describe a highway, visit the "road-scapes" gallery on his website, www.mjkoza.com. Koza challenges the viewer to see routine surroundings just little bit differently.



A largely self-taught artist, MJ Koza has studied with noted realist James Aponovich. His work has been exhibited in group and individual shows, including several one-person juried exhibits throughout New Hampshire. His portfolio includes portraits, still lifes, and landscapes, in a variety of media, including oil, watercolor, pastels, charcoal, and pencil. His current specialization is portraiture, with recent portrait commissions from Colby-Sawyer College, author Richard Lederer, the City of Manchester, and several private collectors.

Lifestyle Magazine cited Mr. Koza's portraiture as one of the best holiday gift ideas for the year 2000.

Artist's Statement

Painting is a way of seeing the world.

What inspires my artistic urge is the desire to capture that protracted moment, that unnamed color, that just-below-the-surface feeling, that sensation brought on by a particular color combination.

I remember reading somewhere that all artists are collectors: that they want to hoard images, to gather them up, and never let go. Painting, for me, is a way of holding onto the world, connecting with it, and ultimately understanding it just a little better.

This is a time of great change in my career as an artist. Most of my previous work has been concerned with the translation of feeling into image, using light and shadow as the dominant language. That communication was best achieved, I felt, through representational art. This is most evident in my pencil and charcoal work, as well as in many of my more traditional portraits.

Recently, I have become fascinated with reflected light and color, especially in architecture, and its power to communicate through its own language.

It is a new and energizing concept for me that reflection itself – in both in the visual and emotional sense – can drive the artistic process.

This change has been inspired by my recent move to Asheville, North Carolina, a city that provides an architectural feast to newcomers.

This new venture may make it harder to categorize the kind of art I produce, but it makes my life as an artist fulfilling in ways that continue to surprise me.

Awards & Exhibitions

AWARDS

Josie F. Prescott Award, Prescott Park Arts Festival, Portsmouth, NH, summer 1999
Best in Show, NH Art Association Show at Sunapee Crafts Fair, 1998
Best in Show, NH Art Association Show at Sunapee Crafts Fair, 1997

EXHIBITIONS

Artemesia Gallery, Lexington Avenue, Asheville, NC, 2005-2007
“Shaker Seasons,” Shaker Village, Canterbury, NH, May-December 2002
“Innaugural Show,” Street Level Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, April 2002
“From the Legendary to the Present,” Parra-Carter Gallery, Brokstedt, Germany, Jan.-July 2002
“Representing Color,” New Hampton School, New Hampton, NH, February 1998
One-Person Show, Kimball-Jenkins Estate, Concord, NH, February 1995

JURIED SHOWS

NH Art Association group show, Currier Gallery of Art, 1998
NH Art Association Juried Summer Show, Sunapee, NH, 1998
NH Art Association group show, Currier Gallery of Art, 1997
NH Art Association Juried Summer Show, Sunapee, NH, 1997
NH Art Association group show, Currier Gallery of Art, 1996
NH Art Association Juried Summer Show, Sunapee, NH, 1996

PORTRAITURE ON DISPLAY

Aldermanic Chambers, City Hall, Manchester, NH
Walter A. Stiles Conference Room, City Hall, Manchester, NH
Colby-Sawyer College, New London, NH – permanent collection
Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah

EDUCATION

Manchester Memorial High School, 1969
Currier Gallery of Art School, 1968-69
NH Institute of Arts & Sciences, 1975-78