



R i c h B o w m a n

Kansas City, MO

Artist Statement

20 | 20

I want to personally thank you for taking the time out of your day to be here at this exhibition to help celebrate 20 years of good fortune and hard work. I wish you, your family, and friends happiness and wellness in these ever-changing and challenging times. This show comes on the heels of a 20 year successful partnership with Blue Gallery. I say this with much bias, and twenty years as a professional artist, that Blue Gallery is THE best and definitely my silver lining in this business. I wish them their own Happy 20th Business Anniversary with 20 more years of success!

Silver Linings

So far 2020 has been a rollercoaster of a year. I'm pretty sure almost everyone can relate to that statement. As much as society norms say that we artists are insulated from the outside world, that does not always hold true for me. Especially this year. It could, and still will, not be ignored.

In "normal times" I'd have the house all to myself during the day for nice, quiet moments of boundless creativity. That was turned on its head early March. This distraction and disturbance was not in the plans but became a blessing in disguise, giving my wife and I uninterrupted and unlimited time with our two high school sons. For that we are incredibly grateful! That family time, and the gifts that came with it, were memorable silver linings in these abnormal and unusual days.

My approach to this show merely dovetailed off those emotions of nostalgia and of home. Not only my dwelling, in which I live and work, but the familiar landscape of the Midwest. I owe this vast variety of nationally under-appreciated land much gratitude and thanks. Over the past 20 years it's helped define my unique style of painting. From big skies to rolling river plains to hidden lakes exposed by a retreating sun. I grew up in KC so the Midwest has a special place in my heart. It's hard to think that at one point in my life I couldn't wait to leave it. I'm so glad I didn't. It has just become one more silver lining in an incredible life.

Blue Gallery

118 Southwest Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64108

816.527.0823 BlueGalleryOnline.com

Rich Bowman

Kansas City, MO

Artist Bio:

by Sara Ford

There's something about the sky: something that prompts the spirit to soar especially during those magical moments when the sun retreats; it's work complete. Painter Rich Bowman's abstracted representational works are compelling. The broad sweep of the sky, alive with color and intriguing clouds towering above the landscape, evokes intense emotions in those seeking renewal.

Capturing the moods of the Midwestern sky is nothing short of a spiritual retreat for Bowman. "These familiar places calm my soul. The simple act of translating this subject matter grounds me," he explains. "In truth it's my meditation, my escape from life's everyday pressures. When I paint, time is erased and my mind is eased by the boundless skies and transitioning hues." Whether his paintings are serene or ominous - the artist says the emotion depends on his mood - Bowman's skies provide an emotional oasis.

The painter's dusky sunsets, rich in texture and blended color, are captivating because of their intensity. "That's the time of day that really inspires me," Bowman says. The artist was born at sunset, a biographical fact that could be mere coincidence. On the other hand, Bowman's time of birth could have been a hint of what was to come. His environment certainly influenced his art.

Not long after he was born in 1969 in Sherman, Texas, Bowman's family moved to Missouri. Surrounded by thunderclouds, rolling fields, gentle hills and flat river plains, the artist grew to love the quixotic nature of the fluid environment. "The sky is always changing colors and shapes," Bowman says. "Every time you turn your head there is an experience to see."

Bowman went on to study art in high school. He also enrolled in figurative drawing classes offered at the Kansas City Art Institute. Because of that experience, the faculty of the prestigious institute encouraged Bowman to apply for a scholarship. Before he enrolled as a college student, Bowman debated whether to become an architect or an artist. "I decided that art was the more natural thing for me," he says, citing another example of following the dictates of his heart. Bowman eventually earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree there.

After graduation he went to work for Hallmark as an illustrator. Over time, he advanced within the company until he became a design manager. During that period Bowman also took on additional jobs, working as a freelance illustrator. "I did a lot of jobs for well known companies. The way I worked was slow and laborious," he says. "It just burned me out." Bowman decided to quit freelancing and to explore fine art.

In the beginning he wasn't certain what to paint. "I started going out in the country. Sunsets seemed to be a time of day when you could relax," Bowman explains. "They became kind of my meditation." As his work evolved, he learned to rely on memory and intuition. "My paintings are created from everyday images stored over a lifetime in my subconscious," Bowman says. "They are not about the details of a specific place. I try to convey a feeling of time and atmosphere through texture, design and color."

As a result, the artist experienced an exhilarating freedom and a sense of peace.



Rich Bowman

Kansas City, MO

Born:

Born: 4/15/69 Sherman, TX.

Currently lives in Kansas City, MO

Education:

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Kansas City Art Institute, May 91

Exhibition:

2020 Solo exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2020 Land, Sea, and Sky group exhibition, Howard Mandville Gallery, Kirkland, WA
2020 3 person exhibition, Craighead Green, Dallas, TX
2019 2 person exhibition, Glave Kocen Gallery, Richmond, VA
2019 Landscape Invitational, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2019 3 person show, Howard Manville Gallery, Kirkland, WA
2018 Group exhibition, Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas, TX
2018 Group Landscape exhibition, Arcadia Gallery, Culver City, CA
2018 Solo exhibition, Bonner David Galleries, Scottsdale, AZ
2017 Solo exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2017 3 person show, Howard Manville Gallery, Kirkland, WA
2016 Group exhibition, Craighed Green Gallery, Dallas, TX
2016 Group exhibition, Howard Mandville Gallery, Kirlland washing
2015 Solo exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2014 Group show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2014 Group exhibition, Craighed Green Gallery, Dallas, TX
2013 Two person show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City MO
2012 Group show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2012 Group exhibition, Craighead Green, Dallas TX
2011 Two man exhibition, Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2010 Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2009 Group show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2009 Group show, Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas, TX
2009 Group show, Bonner David Galleries. Scottsdale, AZ
2008 One man show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2008 One man show, Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2008 Group show, Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas, TX
2007 Two man show, Meyer Gallery, Park City, Utah
2007 Two man show, Howard/Mandville Gallery, Seattle, WA
2007 Best of the Best, Group show, Bonner David Galleries. Scottsdale, AZ
2006 One man show, The Blue Gallery Kansas City, MO
2006 One Man show, Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2006 Group show, Bonner David Galleries. Scottsdale, AZ
2006 Group show, Love of the Land, Howard/Mandville Gallery, Kirkland, WA
2006 One man exhibition, The Meyers Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
2005 Emerging Artist exhibition, Bennett Street Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2005 One man exhibition, The Meyers Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
2005 One man show, Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
2004 One man show, The Blue Gallery Kansas City, MO
2004 Two man show at The Meyer Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
2003 Two man show at The Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO
2000 E-4 Corporate Art Exhibition, Overland Park, KS
2000 Crit Group Show, Shiraz Gallery, Kansas City, MO
1999 Crit Group Show, Shiraz Gallery, Kansas City, MO
1999 Solo Show, Shiraz Gallery, Kansas City, MO

Rich Bowman

Kansas City, MO

Permanent Installations:

Kansas City Research Medical Hospital
Kansas City power/Light, KC, MO
Mediflex, Kansas City, MO
Akin, Gump LLP, Dallas TX
Weil, Gotshal & Manges. New York, NY
Shook, Hardy and Bacon LLP, Kansas City, MO
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
Overland Park Community Center, Overland Park, KS
Spine & Specialty Hospital-Shawnee Mission, KS
The Intercontinental Hotel-Kansas City, MO
Enturia, Inc.-Leawood, KS
National Center for Drug Free Sports-Kansas City, MO
Husch Blackwell Sanders Law Firm-Kansas City, MO
Schlotzky's Inc., Austin TX.
Aurther Bryant's Restaurant, Kansas City MO

Awards:

Meaningless Accolades, 2019, Mystic Publications
Voted 2005 best visual artist in Kansas City by KC Magazine
Society of Illustrators 35, 1994
Society of Illustrators 34, 1993
Kansas City Art Directors Association, Gold medal, painting, 1992
Society of Illustrators Student 33, 1992

Publications:

Northland Lifestyle Magazine, Oct. 2015
Artist & Illustrators Magazine, UK, July 2011, Article on The Harmony of Analogy.
Cover of Pitch Weekly, First Fridays Magazine Nov. 2010
KC Magazine Nov. 2010
Landscape Painting: Essential Concepts and Techniques for Plein Air and Studio Practice, Watson-Guption/Random House, Nov 09
Spaces Kansas City, Aug 09
American Art Collectors 45, July 08
Spaces Kansas City, March 08
Southern Living magazine, Feb 08
Design NJ magazine, New Jersey, June/July 07
Winter Count, Poems by Connie Dover (cover art) –March 07
American Art Collectors, Collectors preview for up coming show -March 07
American Art Collectors, Featured Artist -May 06
KC Magazine, Best visual artist in KC- Sept. 05
Southwest Art magazine cover - Apr 04
Southwest Art magazine - Oct 01
Kansas City Home magazine - Mar 00
Southwest Airlines magazine - Jun 97
United Airlines magazine - Feb 97
Kansas City Star - Nov 96
Mondavi wines - Aug 96
Society of Illustrators - 94, 93, 92