

## Artist Statement: Tim Pfeiffer

Tim Pfeiffer is an artist whose serene landscapes conjure worlds concocted from the mesh of his intense love of nature and his refusal to merely duplicate what his eyes register. The Virginia-based painter, who works exclusively in oils, is a lifelong outdoorsman. Though a keen observer of his surroundings, his romantic landscapes retain an otherworldly feel.

“My paintings often come to me in dreams,” says Tim. “Sometimes, in these dreams, I’m even taking notes on how I want the picture to look.”

Yet, for all their sometimes ominous qualities, his landscapes are decidedly alluring. “People will often look at one of my paintings and say, ‘Where is that? I want to go there.’”

This is no accident of random appreciation. Tim’s compositional technique is intended to draw viewers in and make them feel like they’re part of the landscape. That’s why he often works in large scale, the better to create a dense, multilayered environment that practically demands the viewer become totally immersed in the work.

The carefully wrought textures of his paintings are rife with niches and dark corners. His images simulate the experience of trekking through unfamiliar terrain, where seemingly mundane, stolid elements of nature incite wonderment.

“I want to build a sense of mystery in the landscape, like the effect of hiking somewhere in the wilderness and not being sure what’s around a corner; or seeing just part of a waterfall but not where the water’s going . . . It’s what you *don’t* see that really intrigues.”

Inspired by the Hudson River School, a mid-19th century art movement, Tim is a contemporary master of *atmospheric perspective*. This technique, which creates an illusion of depth, is a key element of his complex, multilayered compositions. It explains, in part, why all of his paintings are dotted with their own mini-compositions—little areas that draw the eye, because of a light effect maybe, or some narrative detail that stands out.

There is much to notice in Tim’s paintings, making the discovery process a key pleasure of his art. Though some may recognize aspects of nature or landscape painting per se in these pictures, Tim’s work is not easily located in the familiar world. The source of his paintings can be found more easily, if at all, in the landscapes of his mind.

## Artist Statement: David Savellano

David Savellano is an artist who works primarily *en plein air* (outdoors), creating watercolor paintings that capture random moments—on the street, in nature, and wherever else his portable easel takes him. “I enjoy working outdoors because it’s unpredictable and lends itself to a kind of spontaneity you just can’t get in a studio,” he says.

Painting outdoors, especially in the urban settings he favors, requires adaptability; and above all, speed. Usually the elements are a factor, like the changing light; or more dramatically, the onset of a thunderstorm. Also, the most alluring subjects/scenarios are often fleeting or temporary at best.

“Painting outside presents many challenges, especially all the distractions. Some of the techniques I’ve developed have been directly in response to them,” says David. “I’ve learned how to focus right away on a scene I like and draw it quickly. Then later I’ll add the paint . . . I think the key is to not allow the clutter of the environment to intrude on the painting.”

The challenges involved in painting outside are essential to what makes this peculiar art form so vital, and a big part of David’s efforts to create the feeling and energy of spontaneous work.

“When you paint outdoors, you’re completely immersed in the scene—the atmosphere, the mood,” says David. “You’re just soaking it in, *feeling* the subject—empathy—and actually capturing its essence. When I look at one of my paintings, I feel the energy of that place or scene like I was there yesterday. Ultimately, that’s the feeling I’m trying to induce in others who see my work.”

David lives in the Bay Area and is a native Californian, which is reflected in the sun-dappled streets and waterfront imagery that dominate his work. Although largely self-taught as a watercolor painter, he credits his 30 years as a practicing architect with having given him the drawing skills and strong sense of perspective that have elevated his artwork to a professional level.

David’s passion for outdoor painting isn’t limited to his own sketches and paintings. He also teaches *en plein air* art, offering classes distinguished by their intimate size and the generous amount of personal instruction he provides. His expert instruction enables students to improve their artistic skills and knowledge. “I assess each student’s abilities and then offer specific tasks and lessons for him/her to practice and learn.”

Participating in many local and regional *plein air* events, David has produced award winning paintings while promoting the art form about which he’s so impassioned. When painting outdoors, he often draws a crowd of curious onlookers, experiencing the rare sight of creativity in progress.

“It changes their idea about art,” he says. “Normally, they’d have no idea how a painting was created, if they saw it in a museum or some other typical venue. People are fascinated, especially the kids—their parents have to drag them away.”

<http://davidsavellano.com/about>

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

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