

Tom Howard, Artist Statement, Spring 2022

The landscape... nature, has been my unchanging muse. Even when the plow tills it, or when the backhoe digs a new foundation in it, there is something completely ingratiating about any little bit of nature that may be left after the carnage. Even if it just produces a few tufts of weeds.

That having been said, the vastness of the American West still inspires me. The colors of the red rock lives with me in my dreams long after my journeys. My art journeys are often coupled with family activities and events. My grown children would chuckle if they saw how often their old man still pulls over for a photo or a quick plein air sketch.

Painting, or making any kind of art, is not for the lighthearted. The real and thoughtful artist does not plant impossible gardens. They don't just sit around waiting for inspiration. Nor do they play at being an artist. We don't just paint whatever we feel like. We work at it each day, finding that thread. Most often it is one of our own making. That thread of thought, or an idea that leads us to new places, and often we don't even have to leave our studios to go there.

My landscape paintings are my escape, if only for a little while. They help me keep a more positive perspective on things, with the hope that in time we will see more peaceful days. In the meantime, I try to say positive things in all my interactions. I try to share the good that I see in life, and these paintings are trying to do just that.

May you have the grace and the inner curiosity to look, imagine, think, and feel as you observe my work. No landscape image is ever just a pretty picture. Each landscape image reflects something about the artist who made it. Each one reflects the force that made it. Each one is more than we know, a reflection of ourselves and the things that we value.

Education

Brigham Young University, 1993 through 1995
Master of Fine Art- painting and drawing emphasis

University of Utah, 1982 through 1984
Bachelor of Fine Art- painting and drawing emphasis

Teaching

Salt Lake Community College – drawing, watercolor, design
Utah Valley University – drawing, watercolor
Brigham Young University, Idaho – drawing
Invited Workshops throughout Utah
Lectures and Presentations throughout Utah

Organizations

Utah Watercolor Society
Plein Air Painters of Utah

Select Exhibitions and Awards

2019 Phillips Gallery, one-person watercolor exhibit, Dibble Gallery

2018 Spring City, UT Plein Air Competition, **Spring City Mayors Award**

2018 Phillips Gallery, two-person exhibit with Simone Simonian

2017 Signature/Two Star exhibition, Utah Watercolor Society

2016 Small Works exhibition, Utah Watercolor Society Award of Merit

2015 Phillips Gallery, two-person exhibit with Gerald Purdy

2015 Utah Watercolor Society Fall Show, **Past President's Award**

2015 Spring City, UT Plein Air Competition, **Award of Merit**

2014 Spring City, UT Plein Air Competition, **Award of Merit**

2014 Wasatch Plein Air Paradise, **Third Place, Studio Division**

2014 Utah Watercolor Society Small Works Show, **Jurors Award**

2014 Utah Watercolor Society Spring Show, **Jurors Award**

2013 Salt Lake Community College President's Art Show, SLC, UT

2013 Spring City, UT Plein Air Competition

2013 Utah Watercolor Society Fall Show, **Award of Merit**

2013 Wasatch Plein Air Paradise, **Third Place, Studio Division**

2013 Holladay Plein Air Exhibition, **Third Place**

2013 Phillips Gallery, two-person exhibit with Kathy Peterson

2013 Utah Watercolor Society Spring Show, **Award of Excellence**

2012 Wasatch Plein Air Competition, Heber, UT, **Award of Merit--Studio Art**

2012 Holladay Plein Air Competition, Holladay, UT, **Third Place**

2011 Spring City, UT Plein Air Competition, **Second Place**

2011 Wasatch Plein Air Paradise, Heber, UT

2010 Spring City, UT Plein Air Competition, **First Place**

2010 Phillips Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT, One Person show

2010 Springville Museum of Art "National Spring Salon"

2010 12th Black & White Statewide Competition, Eccles Community Art Center, Ogden, UT

2009 "Traces of the West," Ogden, UT

2009 Paint the Parks, "Celebrating America's National Parks"

2008 Eccles Community Art Center, Ogden, UT, One Person Show

2008 Phillips Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT, One Person Show

2008 Springville Museum of Art "National Spring Salon"

2007 Wasatch Plein Air Paradise, Heber, UT, **Award of Merit**

2007 Salt Lake Community College President's Art Show, SLC, UT, **President's Choice Award and Purchase Award**

2006 Phillips Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT, Two-Person Show