

NOVA Open Interviews – Sean McAfee, Owner of Brushforhire

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MEET SEAN MCAFEE, OWNER OF BRUSHFORHIRE

As many hobbyists can tell you, the moment of inspiration that leads someone to become a miniatures artist can occur at any time. For Sean McAfee, owner of [Brushforhire](#), NOVA Open seminar instructor, and NOCF Consortium artist, that moment occurred while walking past a local miniatures shop called Toy Soldier Gallery in 1999. “My now wife and myself, were walking down the street when I saw a painted dragon in the window of the store,” he said, “I went in and proceeded to ask a million questions. I ended up spending all the money I had on two Ral Partha dragons and five pots of paint. I have been painting ever since.”



Sean has moved into and out of commission painting as a part of self reflection on what it means to be an artist since this moment. “A huge point in my development when I chose to take a hiatus from painting, because it became a chore, he said, “during that period I had to reevaluate why I was painting.” Sean used this time to focus on theory and pushing his abilities, which helped him when he returned to commission painting. His friendships that he developed with fellow hobbyists in 2016 have also helped him with his art. As he explained, “up to that point, I had painted by myself, and was not involved with any groups. They invited me to the NOVA Open, and that was when I started to get involved with the NOCF. Now, here I am preparing to be an instructor.”

As Sean has developed his relationship with his art, he has also worked with world-renown miniatures artists like James Wappel and CK Studios to improve his art. “They pushed me to think about the tools I use, and unique ways of using colors in highlights and shadows,” he said. These lessons combined with years of painting have helped Sean win numerous awards, including a Bronze Medal in the Single Figure Category at NOVA Open 2017 for his piece Allison the Twilight Knight. “The bronze at NOVA Open was easily the most important,” he said, “it was the first convention I ever went to, and the first time competing in a painting competition.” However, some of Sean’s most memorable work includes pieces he kept for himself or donated to NOCF, including Iceslayers for his collection and a painted version of Forge World’s Nathaniel Garo piece for the NOCF.

Attendees will be able to glean some of Sean’s wisdom through his NOVA Open 2019 seminar “Painting Miniatures: From Box to Table.” The class, which Sean will teach on [August 29](#) and [September 1](#), will help beginning painters learn how to assemble, prep, paint, and finish their own miniatures through a combination of lecture and hands-on instruction. As he explained, the purpose of these classes revolves around “being able to help others discover the passion and love for this hobby.” In addition to serving as a seminar instructor, Sean has also contributed his work like the Nathaniel Garro piece for NOCF raffles, an endeavor that reflects his gratitude for his successes in life. “I always feel so blessed for the things I am able to do and have, that it would feel selfish to just keep it to myself,” he said.

The NOVA Open would like to thank Sean for contributing his work to the NOCF and making the NOVA Open the best possible experience for our attendees.