



# Joshua Been

## *Biography*

Joshua Been, born in 1974, had no shortage of outdoor adventures that cultivated his appreciation for the natural world. Drawing since he could manage a pencil, he was captivated by animation and cartooning. This interest remained with him throughout high school and an active duty enlistment in the US Army. Been then went on to pursue his BA in Fine Art at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. As a Magna Cum Laude graduate from this small liberal arts college, Been found interest in more than just art classes. He was active in theatre and performing arts, while studying Earth Sciences as well. This interdisciplinary foundation is evident in the intricacies and truthful fascination of his landscape as well as his figurative work.

After graduation, Been relocated to the Los Angeles area where he worked for several years in the entertainment industry as a Character Animator and Visual Development Artist. Cartoon Network, and Disney TV were some of the studios where he found work. It wasn't long, however, before Been craved a more liberating artform, and enrolled in some figure painting classes at the California Art Institute. While simplifying his life in order to pursue the more nomadic life of a painter, Been moved back to his native land in Colorado. For a short time in order to get his feet on the ground and further hone his teaching ability, Been taught art and design to inmates at the Buena Vista Correctional Facility. He now lives and paints full time in Salida, a place known as the "Heart of the Rockies".

## *Artist's Statement*

The oil paintings I create are one-of-a-kind pages in the visual journal of my life. Through design my paintings are best viewed with a little distance, while the brushwork and palette knife together create a textural variety which entices a closer look. Impressionistic Realism is the style I strive to perfect where the poetry of the subject is depicted, detail is implied, and I employ the visual vocabulary of the viewer to "finish" areas of the canvas in their own unique way. Having extensive training in figure and portrait painting, I've come to enjoy depicting the variety of life in the 21st Century and may include man-made objects, figures, or animals. It is the elegant randomness of form and light with which I dance, and I hope to remind and inspire others to take time to see just how amazing this existence is. I am truly fortunate for the gift of placing these "reminders" in to the lives of others, and I will never take that gift for granted.

Thank you for taking the time.

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