

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, he also stayed busy performing in the college's theatrical productions. He became engaged not only in the intersection between visual and performing arts, but also took great interest in the sciences and humanities. 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. Cartoon Network, and Disney TV were studios where he found work. It wasn't long, however, before Been craved a more liberating art form, so he enrolled in some oil 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. During the transition, Been was employed by the Programs Department of the medium/high security, Buena Vista Correctional Facility where he taught Drawing and Painting to inmates. He now lives and paints full-time in Salida, a place known as the "Heart of the Rockies".

A Statement of my Work

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 textures and bravura in the brushwork bring you in for a closer look. It is the elegant randomness of form and light that I dance with, and I always try to do the Universe justice in my attempts to capture them. In my work, I hope to remind and inspire others to take the time to see, in their unique way, how amazing this existence is. I am very fortunate for the gift of placing these "reminders" in to the lives of others, and will never take that gift for granted.

Thank you for taking the time.

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