



## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Considering the inherent difficulty of creating exquisite renderings of random objects with a half-dull pencil on low grade scraps of note paper the pursuit of such an effort might seem a hopeless cause for a young child, yet even so, and in spite of his repeated failed attempts to do just that so began the artistic endeavors of Matthew Runkle.

Inevitably, and in spite of the medium's cost advantages, Runkle moved beyond weathered no. 2 pencils, and began showing drawings and paintings in formal group exhibitions as a teenager. While a student he won a number of honors including the award of his first solo exhibit at the age of 21. At that time he was exploring the intellectual and emotional capacity of non-representational work as inspired by the profound impact of the paintings of Wassily Kandinsky. During the six years following his solo exhibit Runkle continued this work and its variations, but struggled for clarity of vision and a sense of individual purpose, nevertheless, he moved forward until June of 2006 when following what he perceived to be the colossal failure of a single painting he committed himself to an extensive course of self-study, not so much as attempting a painting until he had gained the knowledge and insight he felt necessary to achieve a sense of personal success.

In February of 2008 after more than 18 months of self-imposed exile from painting, and having a broadened collection of influences and a matured process Runkle once again picked up the brush. While resolving the sketch for what was to become the painting *Sail Bucket* the pictorial language which has come to mark his work, and serve as the vehicle for the development of his broader vision fell into place.

His time since has been spent developing the nuance of this language, and building depth beyond its formal roots in the mechanics of composition. Through exploration of the urban scene Runkle has combined the simplicity of modern abstract aesthetics with a clear reference to known objects, and shaded this blend of stylized function and familiarity with a cast of time and place.

This latest work has lead to the artist's representation at The Paint Box Gallery in Ephraim, WI, Milward Farrell Fine Art in Madison, WI, and has been included in several juried group exhibitions with the watercolor *Decembering At The Slum* receiving the honor of Special Recognition at Upstream People Gallery's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Abstraction International Online Juried Art Exhibition.

The potential of Runkle's work to uniquely tell stories through contemplatively engineered scenes has emerged with the deepening of his awareness that all objects having aesthetic structure exist within an atmospheric context serving with great consequence as the props, vessels, and backdrops to those lives in nearest proximity. The greater development of the narrative potential within his emotionally inflected aesthetically grounded work is Runkle's ambition moving forward.

The work of Matthew Runkle can be seen online at [www.MatthewRunkle.com](http://www.MatthewRunkle.com). Original paintings may be purchased in Door Co., WI at The Paint Box Gallery, Ephraim, or in Madison, WI at Milward Farrell Fine Art. Giclee prints are available at Franklin Grove in Attica, WI.

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## ARTIST RESUME

### Selected Exhibitions (\*solo exhibit)

- 2011 – The Paint Box Gallery, Miniature Fine Art Show, Ephraim, WI
- 2010 – The Paint Box Gallery, Miniature Fine Art Show, Ephraim, WI  
Eager Free Public Library, Regional Artist Exhibit, Evansville, WI
- 2009 – Upstream People Gallery, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Abstraction International Online Juried Art Exhibition, Online  
Chicagoland Learning & Product Expo: ART!, Juried Exhibit, Lisle, IL  
Still Point Art Gallery, Dwellings, Online  
Albertson Memorial Library, Albany, WI
- 2008 – Francis Hardy Center for the Arts, 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Juried Exhibit, Ephraim, WI
- 2001 – Rountree Gallery, Regional Juried Exhibit, Platteville, WI  
Highland College, Regional Juried Exhibit, Freeport, IL
- 2000 – \*Rountree Gallery/Clare Bank, Artist of the Month, Platteville, WI  
Rountree Gallery, Regional Juried Exhibit, Platteville, WI

### Representing Galleries

- The Paint Box Gallery, Ephraim, WI
- Milward Farrell Fine Art, Madison, WI

### Awards

- 2009 – Special Recognition, Upstream People Gallery, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Abstraction International Online Juried Art Exhibition, Online (*Decembering At The Slum*, watercolor)
- 2001 – Honorable Mention, Rountree Gallery, Regional Juried Exhibit, Platteville, WI (watercolor)
- 2000 – Artist of the Month, Rountree Gallery, Regional Juried Exhibit, Platteville, WI (watercolor)
- 1999 – Best of Show, Highland College, Regional Juried Exhibit, Freeport, IL (photograph)  
Juror's Award, University of WI-Platteville, Student Exhibit, Platteville, WI (watercolor)
- 1998 – Fine Arts Scholarship, Highland College, Freeport, IL

### Private Collections

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|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Chicago, IL          | Waunakee, WI    | German Valley, IL |
| Dallas, TX           | Stockton, IL    | Ephraim, WI       |
| Sister Bay, WI       | Platteville, WI |                   |
| Mansfield Center, CT | Albany, WI      |                   |

### Juried Group Memberships

- Wisconsin Visual Artists, Professional Level, Madison, WI
  - 14 South Artists, Oregon, WI
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