

John Hood

I was raised from an early age in Los Angeles where I began my lifelong fascination with the sea. I'm considered a non-objective painter, best-known for my highly textured mixed-media surfaces with meditative forms.

I began my artistic journey after moving back to the mid-west in the early 1980s, where academic studies took me in the direction of experimental filmmaking. In the early 1990s I held my first solo exhibition of painting and film at the Individual Artists of Oklahoma gallery in Oklahoma City. I will always find inspiration in the special earth tones and native influences of Oklahoma.

The move toward non-representation was a slow progression from my early figurative works, which were often large canvases constructed with encaustic and oil. My early works were influenced by Chaim Soutine and Susan Rothenberg but soon I became interested in the minimalist works of Agnes Martin, Eva Hesse, and Antonio Tapies, within whose paintings non-traditional materials were incorporated.

By the mid-90s I began working in a variety of mixed-medias; encaustic, fibers, wood and paper. In one of my first serious works I added wax and plaster to the paint and incorporated paper, string, and metal (Green and Black, Levitan Gallery, New York City, 1993). Over the years I began exploring with latex and oil varnishes for a more ethereal surface (Inner Companion, CAF Gallery, Santa Barbara, 2000). Currently I am moving more towards three-dimensional works with a concentration on assemblage and organic sculpture (Immersion Pods, 2019), where individuals are inserted into pod-like meditative forms.



Portrait by Mark Robert Halper

My works began to be viewed nationally and abroad with group exhibitions in Kansas City, Houston, Dallas, New York, Los Angeles, Paris and Florence. By 1998 I was working both as an artist and educator, becoming a tenured faculty member at Allan Hancock College in California. From that period to the present, I have worked with the Santa Barbara County artistic community as a curator and juror for a variety of art shows. Over the last few years I have devoted much of my time and attention to both family (30 years with my lovely wife Debra and two beautiful daughters) and academic issues, where I serve as Chair of the Fine Arts Department and continue to be an advocate for emerging local artists on the Central Coast.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Studio, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, 1994. Thesis: "*Wall Installation*" - Conceptual installation dealing with meditative space, organic elements and the natural pigments of Italy.

Graduate Studies in Florence, Italy, Cleveland Institute of Art-Cleveland, Ohio, 1993. Overseas research: Ancient fresco paintings, architecture and sculpture of the Toscana, Piemonte, Emilia Romagna and Umbria regions of Italy.

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Media, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, 1992. Emphasis in film/video studies, film direction and editing.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor of Art, Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria, California.
August 1998 - Present -

Adj. Instructor of Art, Rose State College, Midwest City, Oklahoma.
December 1994 - May 1998

Adj. Professor of Art, Oklahoma City Community College, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Lecturer

Textural: An examination of the tactile and verse, Panel discussion, Arts Fund Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

Kinetic Arts - UCLA School of the Arts and Architecture's Design Media Arts Department and the California Nano-Systems Institute (CNSI), Los Angeles, CA
The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence, Panel Discussion, The Pacific Conservatory Theatre PCPA, Santa Maria, CA

Art of the Sixties – Sponsored by Community Education, SM, CA Art Talk Back, Ed Harvey panel discussion, Santa Maria, CA

Gallery talk for student leadership program, Foxworthy Gallery, Santa Maria, CA

Van Gogh: A Life – Sponsored by the University Women's Association.
Santa Maria, CA

Kinetic Sculpture – Bermant Foundation, Los Olivos, CA

Wrong Design – Watercolor Society, San Luis Obispo, CA

Wrong Design – Casa Dumetz, Los Alamos, CA

Teen Mentor Program (Public Murals) – Arts Fund, Santa Barbara, CA

Workshops

Mural Painting at The Arts Fund Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA

Paper Making at Contemporary Gallery, Los Alamos, CA

Pastel Drawing at Contemporary Gallery, Los Alamos, CA

Mixed Media at Contemporary Gallery, Los Alamos, CA

Image Transfer at Lompoc Arts Association, Lompoc, CA

Encaustic Painting at Los Padres Art Guild, Orcutt, CA

Experimental Painting at SLO Museum, San Luis Obispo, CA

Selected Exhibitions -

"Nascent" exhibition, SBCAST Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA
"Love & Guts" exhibition, Betteravia Gallery, Santa Maria, CA
"IMPART: Mentorship Master Artists" exhibition
Funk Zone, Santa Barbara, CA
Meryll Lynch Corporate Collection, Sacramento, CA
Annual Faculty Show, Foxworthy Gallery Santa Maria, California (1998-present)
Underskin/Understand – C Gallery, Los Alamos, CA
One Night Stand-AFS Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA
"Evolution" Monelleo Gallery –Santa Barbara, California
"Views and Vision", Reynolds Gallery, Montecito, California
"Back and Forth" exhibition - Jiquilpan, Mexico
"FORUMulations" David Ryan Gallery Orcutt, CA
"Small Works", Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara, CA
"Sagrado Connexion" – Creamery Gallery, San Luis Obispo, CA

"Inseme", SACI Group Show, Florence, Italy
"Between Seer and Seen-Celebrating the Artists of Santa Barbara County",
Group portraits by Mark Halper
"Small Works Exhibition", Chuck Levitan Gallery, New York, N.Y. "Installation
Exhibition", Lawndale Art & Performance Center, Houston, TX "Group
Exhibition" -The Untitled Gallery, Oklahoma City, OK
"Fellowship Award Winners", St. Gregory College,
Mabee Gerrer Museum of Art, Shawnee, OK
"Dallas Visual Arts Exhibition", Dallas Visual Art Center,
Valley House Gallery, Dallas, TX
"River Market Regional Exhibition", KCAC Gallery, Kansas City, KS
"Vision Makers 98", City Arts Center, Oklahoma City, OK "Invitational
Exhibition", Stage Center Gallery, Oklahoma City, OK

ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE

Juror

Student Exhibition, The Harold J Miozzi Art Gallery, San Luis Obispo, CA
OPAG Exhibition, Art Center, San Luis Obispo, CA
PR Art Association, Paso Robles, CA
Arts Outreach Association, Los Olivos, CA
Cypress Gallery, Lompoc, CA
Brushes in Blue exhibition,
Lompoc, CA
National Arts Program, Santa Maria, CA

Curator

SACI Gallery, Florence, Italy (1993)
Betteravia Gallery, Santa Maria, CA (2008-2016)
Shepard Gallery, Santa Maria, CA(2009)
Foxworthy Gallery, Santa Maria, CA (2009-2020)
Channing Peake Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA
(2013-2016)
Arts Fund Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA (2015-20)

Board member – Santa Barbara Arts Fund
(2016-present)

Coordinator – Community Canvas (Lompoc Mural Society) (1999-2013)

Board member - Orcutt Children's Art Foundation – (2009 –2014)

Board member – AHC Art on Campus Committee – (2013-present)

Coordinator – AHC Association of Visual Arts (1999-2007)

Commissioner – Santa Barbara County Arts Commission (2008-present)

Docent – David Bermant Kinetic Sculpture Collection (2013-present)