

Dennis Anderson | Artist Statement:

What one sees is but a reflection of one's experiences.

I'm rooted in the "method" of genre painting, a category of painting in which domestic scenes or banal incidents seem familiar. I find the Portland area, with its people and places, a great resource for my interests in painting.

My desire is to elevate the activities of daily life, those mundane scenes where the moment becomes the subject. I like the balancing of what is familiar with the thought of what was seen. Whenever I venture out into the Portland area, I take random pictures and make selections from this data. What I'm searching for in a particular scene is a feeling, some sense of place, or maybe its just happening upon the way sunlight defines and creates shadows. But, my paintings are not recordings. The figures and elements can be ambiguous and remote like props on a stage. Often I'm interested in the way people interact with or detach themselves from one another.

I tend to use local color for my characters and orchestrate a palette of hues to capture a sense of place and time. By making these choices I'm hoping to bring the viewer along, finding something familiar or remembered.

I consider my painting successful when the viewer can pause, and maybe reflect on the narrative of their own experience.