

John Hathorn

Biographical Profile

John Hathorn is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette where he taught painting and drawing from 1982 to 2019. He has been twice recognized by the University with Eminent Faculty Awards, as Distinguished Professor in 2008 and with the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2013. A native of Oxford, Mississippi, he received BA and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Mississippi and the MFA from Florida State University.

As a painter and constructivist, Hathorn's work underscores a long-standing interest in literature and in particular the relations between painting and poetry. As a tracing of felt experience his work explores relationships of image to language and sensation to form, and is often thematically categorized by series titles including *Migratory Poems*, *The Baudelaire Sketches*, *On Rilke*, *Poems to Copernicus*, *The Grammar of Water*, and *Book of Hours* among others. Chronologically and stylistically diverse sources of art historical correspondence frequently serve as important catalysts in Hathorn's art informed by Eastern and Western painting traditions and by over three decades in which he has periodically taught in England, France, and Italy, extending his travel in the United Kingdom as well as Belgium, the Netherlands, and Spain.

Over the past three and a half decades, the artist has been represented by galleries in New Orleans, Houston, and Dallas. His paintings reside in numerous private and public collections. The artist has described his studio practice as "addressing the intimacy of painting through oblique reference to internal and external experience, and through relational correspondences with writers and artists whose work continues to sustain me. The touch sensibility in the making and the physical palpability of materials I believe to be inseparable from the feeling and meaning of my painting."