

## Artist's Statement

As a painter I find inspiration in painters, writers and photographers that have gone before me especially those born and raised in New York. Pete Hamill is one of my absolute favorite writers and a literary treasure. I utilize storytelling techniques with color and composition as well as humor, albeit, sometimes dark humor. Always a figurative painter, I find an acute awareness of the use of color as a mirror to my emotions. Color is the primary motivation and story the secondary.

I employ a personal vocabulary of colorfully fluid marks and imagery to express the sensual pleasure of the natural and human world. I sometimes find the use of old Kodachrome negatives from the sixties and seventies of everyday life of that time to inform both color and images. William Eggleston is a personal favorite. I tend to work in series in the exploration of a particular image, historical time period or study of animals and/or culture. Recently I have been moved by the current issues at stake especially the murder of George Floyd. Having been raised in the south but a resident of NYC for decades, I find the current issues both heartbreaking as well as inspiring and that has spurred not only internal reflection and accountability but also furtive paintings as a result - looking to color to uplift and buoy.

After making three feature films and numerous short films I always storyboard everything. Those sketchbooks filled with drawings also inspire me by their economic use of line to convey an emotion and image. Some storyboards have become paintings and some are small works in and of themselves. I always return to color. Color is the primary aspect in my storytelling as a filmmaker. My one year of MFA candidate work from Pratt Institute has served me well as I look at filmmaking as moving paintings. My strength is in historic drama and period films. My love of history and "herstory" is second only to my paintings.