

NICK PATTEN ~ BIO

Nick Patten, often described as an American Vermeer, grew up in Troy, New York, not far from where he eventually completed a degree in Studio Art. During his twenties he moved around the east coast from Nantucket Island, to Vermont. Eventually he moved to New York City where he worked in the NY art world for a day job while painting in his spare time.

Upon deciding to paint full time, he and his wife moved to Cape Cod. They opened a gallery where over time, he developed a significant following of collectors, and through numerous exhibitions in the region continued to build his reputation. After 12 years on Cape Cod he moved to the Hudson Valley area where he worked in a converted barn behind his house and exhibited his work through regional galleries on the east coast as well as California and Texas.

In 2019 he and his wife moved to Providence, Rhode Island where he maintains a studio in his home located in the vibrant neighborhood of Federal Hill on the west side.

His paintings can be found in private collections throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, including the Cape Cod Museum of Art, the Mississippi Museum of Art, the New York Public Library, the Boston Public Library, the Print Club of Albany Permanent Collection, and many other corporate and museum collections.

Patten begins the process of creating his compositions from photographs, but states that, “the photos are just a starting point. I use what I call the ‘process of exclusion,’ which means I sort through what’s in the image and take out all extraneous objects, sometimes adding things from my imagination.

With the design in place, I then work to create a balance, harnessing the bold contrasts of light and shadow to reveal the quiet drama in an everyday scene.” His paintings are infused with emotion, though he believes that the feelings a viewer has when taking in his work, belongs to them alone. “I don’t try to put any narrative into my work. I don’t wish to manipulate the observer’s emotions,” he says. Regardless of his intentions, Patten’s hauntingly still, calm, and serene paintings often leave viewers with a sense of wistful nostalgia.