

## **Mike McSorley**

### **Bio**

April. 2020

At the age of 8, Mike was taking photos with an old camera. His photos of wheels, sewage pumps and other inane objects vexed his parents, as film & developing was costly, but predicted some of the art he now produces.

Throughout his career, Mike focused on light and how it affects local color. A strong interest in how light accents the form, and a belief that form, color and atmosphere are best seen from actual observation form the foundation of his work. The techniques of shading and extruding have been augmented with color theory, atmosphere, edge quality and experimentation. The effect of light on a scene and the mood created by the placement and colors of the objects are his primary focus. He paints common objects, people and settings around him and hopes to expand how they are perceived and appreciated. Mike usually starts with a pencil sketch on the panel. Then turpentine is used to blend and darken the graphite areas. Some of these lines can be seen projecting through the finished work's thinner paint layers. He goes back into this paint layer, scrubbing, wiping, glazing and occasionally reinforcing some of the edges with pencil.

Mike's work has been shown in regional and national shows, a handful of solo shows and has won several awards. He was awarded a FY20 Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program Grant, by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, 2020. Last Fall he was accepted as a Torpedo Factory Art Center Eligible Artist. Some recent awards were a first prize at the Capitol Hill Art League. Kensington Award, 2019, and First Place, 2017, both at the Falls Church Plein Air Festival, First Place at the Paint Berlin! (MD) in 2016, and Second Place at the Strokes of Genius National Painting show at the Circle Gallery, Annapolis, MD. In 2016, his piece, *Eckington Korner* was acquired for The Washingtonia Collection through the DC Creates! Public Art Program. Upcoming One -person Shows are: The Arts Club of Washington in May 2021, National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD, July 2020. He had a solo show at the Hill Center in Washington, DC in 2019, a recent solo exhibit at The Art League Gallery in Alexandria, VA. Fall, 2015, and a solo show at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Gallery in Pittsburgh, PA. 2014 had an exhibit at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg, PA. Later that year the piece *Possessions* was created for the Westmoreland's "Peddling Personalities" exhibit. A Fellowship to the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts was in 2015.

Mike moved to Washington DC with his wife in 2015.