



UNITED STATES EMBASSY GEORGETOWN
ART in Embassies Exhibition

THOMAS PAQUETTE (1958)

"Travel is the distance we need from ourselves to see the world afresh. Sometimes this requires a plane ticket, sometimes just a changed point of view. Much of my work is the result of travels both far and near, from other continents to the canvas just a foot in front of me. The paintings are talismans from new horizons.

For portability, I work small when traveling or out in the field. Aside from pencil drawings that I finish on location, virtually all my paintings – including two-inch-square gouaches – are later reworked in the studio, often several times and over the course of years. Setting the arbitrary goal of finishing a painting on location never crosses my mind. In fact, the adventure just begins in the field. When I return to the studio, these wide-eyed observations are reshaped into new visual adventures, where the environment of the canvas is now its own wide world to explore. In such a way, I travel within my paintings as well as through the landscape.

Like Henry Thoreau's claim that he is well traveled in Concord, I am well traveled in my canvases." ~ Tom Paquette



Tom Paquette received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Bemidji State University in Minnesota, and his Master of Fine Arts degree from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville. The recipient of several public commissions, Paquette has exhibited his paintings nationally and internationally and has works in many private, corporate, and public collections, including the Mint Museum of Art in Charlotte, North Carolina; the Portland Museum of Art in Maine; and the Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Paquette has lectured widely and has received numerous fellowships and artist's residencies both in the United States and abroad, including the American Academy in Rome; the USM/Aegean Arts and Cultural Exchange, Greece; University of Wales and Glamorgan Centre for Art, both in Cardiff, Wales; Yosemite, Acadia, and Rocky Mountain National parks; and the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson.

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Sky Ascending, 2008

Oil on linen, 36 x 46 in. (91.4 x 116.8 cm)

Courtesy of the artist, Warren, Pennsylvania