

Jack Dant

A World Observed

Second Floor Gallery

July 13 - Sept 21, 2024

Artist Statement:

Painting for me continues to be about connections – connecting with nature, the specific scene or subject, and the community of artists, both near and far, that share in this endeavor that I love. These connections add richness to the experience of painting and offer rewards that far exceed those of just painting another picture.

The title, “A World Observed”, references the role of observation in the painting process. I would describe my work as falling in the school of Traditional Realism. As such, my aim is to see and capture the beauty that exists all around us. Sometimes it’s found in scenes that would typically be regarded as beautiful, but other times beauty is found in everyday items, the banal, the overlooked. By observing the subject deeply and not relying on pre-conceived notions of what a tree looks like, the color of the sky, etc., real beauty can be found and, hopefully, reflected in the painting. Rather than imposing my own attempt to improve on nature’s beauty, I seek to translate my observed experience into a work with the goal of communicating the experience to the viewer.

I am grateful to the Blanden Art Museum and staff for this opportunity to return to my birthplace and share this body of work. My wish is that visitors come away with a new appreciation for the rich variety of beauty that surrounds us every day.

Bio:

Jack Dant is a St. Paul, Minnesota artist whose painting subjects range from landscape and still life to portrait and figures. He is drawn primarily to realism in the style of the American Impressionists; however his technique and style continue to evolve. Jack enjoys painting outside on location (plein air) as well as painting in his studio. He has studied Flemish techniques in still life and portrait with Jeff Hurinenko, and spent many years studying landscape painting with Joe Paquet, using direct painting methods and the prismatic palette.

In addition to painting, Jack has been exploring the intaglio process (prints produced from etched copper plates), sculpture, and casting in bronze. He has developed a home casting studio where he completes all aspects of the sculpting

and casting process. Jack is a Principal Product Engineer with Heraeus Medevio in Fridley, Minnesota where he develops medical devices for a variety of interventional procedures.

Jack was born in Fort Dodge and enjoys many happy memories of childhood friends, Duncombe Elementary (the old one), and growing up on 8th avenue. Having moved to Minnesota in 3rd grade (1974), the memories are fading, but still warm. Jack looks forward to reconnecting with some long-lost friends!

