

CITYSCAPES

Richard Hanson



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Artist Statement

I have a strong interest in the history of art and its relationship with the culture in which it was created. The Italian Renaissance with its tremendous innovation and artistic production, fascinates me.

Living, working, and traveling in Italy has given me an immersive exposure to its art, culture, language, and history. Italy is a storied country with a stunning visual history. Its people have a reverence for its art, architecture, and historical monuments. All ancient structures are preserved, and thus Italian cities have a very historical feel. While in Italy, I spend much of my time walking the streets searching for painting ideas.

As an artist, I have always been attracted to imagery that is less than pristine. I find myself drawn to highly detailed textural images. I shape space with high contrast blacks and whites while leaving appropriate space for strategic color and texture. As a representational painter, the formal qualities of design are paramount.

As a technical watercolor artist, I plan the progression of my composition, color, and areas of visual impact prior to commencing a painting. A detailed well-planned drawing is important for success. Watercolor is not a very forgiving medium due to its nature.

I find painting the detailed minutia of an image very satisfying and enjoyable. Over the years, I have conditioned myself to accept the long process of my painting style and

find it meditative. I have also come to the realization that for me, the process of painting is just as important as the finished work.

Bio:

Richard Hanson is a representational watercolor artist and art educator whose career spans over fifty years. His current work focuses on his highly textured visual impressions of the streets of Italy. His work illustrates the contrast between ancient architectural structures, streets and contemporary life.

Hanson's work has been exhibited over 150 times throughout the nation earning many juror awards. Most notably, OK Harris Works of Art, New York, NY, National Watercolor Society, Los Angeles, Ca, and American Watercolor Society, New York, NY.

Born and raised in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Richard Hanson is a 1967 graduate of St Edmond High School. He holds an AA Degree from Iowa Central Community College, a BA degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Art Education and an MA in Studio Art (Painting) from Minnesota State University.

Hanson spent his working career as an art educator in the Fort Dodge Community Schools as well as Iowa Central Community College.