



Rex Beanland

CSPWC, AFCA, CSA

Biography

Rex started painting in watercolour as a young child and he just never outgrew it. Something in that mysterious interaction between water and pigment continues to fascinate him. In spite of being told that ‘serious artists’ paint in acrylic or oil he is proudly and unabashedly a watercolourist. Both the challenge and the joy of watercolour reside in the fact that water won’t be completely controlled. As watercolourists we need to learn to work with water and to allow it to do what it does best. The reward we receive is that water will do things for us that we couldn’t do by ourselves.

He has painted full time for the past 20 years since retiring as a public school teacher. For the past 7 years he has focused on urban landscapes.

“I am fascinated by people. I am amused, inspired and intrigued by the things they do. So I paint cityscapes, to capture the interaction between people and the places they live. I spend a lot of time wandering the streets and back alleys searching for those fleeting glimpses of people going about their business. For me painting is about story telling and as I observe people working, playing or just hanging around I find myself drawn to their stories and that’s what I want to capture.

All my urban landscape work begins with plein air painting or sketching. The beauty of doing cityscapes is that everything is so close at hand. Winter and summer, I can be found wandering the city until I find something that interests me. I prefer to paint or sketch directly on location but I also will use my camera. This rich library of reference material weaves it’s way into my paintings.

The 4 most significant achievements in my art career all occurred within the past 7 years after I chose to focus on the urban landscape. They are: 1) achieving signature status in the Canadian Society of Painters In Watercolour (CSPWC), 2) achieving signature status with the Federation of Canadian Artists (AFCA), 3) achieving signature status in the Canadian Society Of Artists and 4) being asked to be a principal instructor at the Watercolour Symposium presented CSPWC in Nova Scotia in 2015 and in Calgary in 2017.

As a retired teacher I find that teaching art is in my DNA. I love to be part of that moment when students ‘get it’ and learn something new and are inspired to keep on growing.”