

Joe Mraz was born and educated in Chicago, Illinois. He studied art throughout high school and during his senior year he attended classes at the Chicago Academy of Fine Art. After graduation from high school he attended the American Academy of Art, in Chicago full time. He then spent over 15 years working for advertising art and commercial photography firms in Chicago and New York. He moved to Longview Texas in the 1980's to pursue business interests unrelated to art.

Working in all types of art media over the years, watercolor has held a special interest and has always been a love of his. It wasn't until 2005 that he decided to pick his brushes once again and watercolor painting became his true passion.

Since then he has devoted his time to further study and attending workshops and demonstrations under such well-known worldwide watercolorists as Richard Stephens, Alvaro Castagnet and Joseph Zbukvic.

He is a signature member of the Southwestern Watercolor Society of Dallas, Texas, and a member of the East Texas Watercolor Society Longview, Texas, and the American Watercolor Society.

Artist Statement

Watercolor painting has this unique unpredictability of pigment and water reacting on paper, as applied and as it dries, that has always fascinated me. Understanding how and why this happens can be a lifetime journey. One never fully knows where a painting may take you. It's this combination of pigment and water coupled with the emotions and passions of the moment that becomes the impressions we leave on the paper.

On our journey as artists, we are forever searching for our voice, so to speak, in expressing our personal style of painting. It comes slowly, but when a painting speaks to us that expresses our passion in that painting, it becomes for the moment our favorite until another emerges.