

# John Erickson

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## **Birth**

March 12, 1953, Salt Lake City, UT

## **Bio**

John Erickson was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1981 he received a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Utah, studying under the direction of Alvin Gittins and Douglas Snow. In 1975 he attended The Summer Fellowship at Yale University, studying with Wolf Kahn, Louis Finkelstein and Phillip Guston. He returned to the University of Utah for graduate school and received his MFA in 1981. After graduating, he began teaching fine art at the University of Utah and has been an Assistant Professor there for over twenty years. He also teaches summer workshops and is involved in Art Access, a program that brings the arts to those who otherwise would not have the resources to explore it.

John enjoys a variety of mediums including latex, acrylic, oil and oil pastels. His love of nature stems from having spent a lifetime in the outdoors hiking and exploring the backcountry wilderness.

His works are an exploration of interior and exterior space and planes. Landscapes made by man and nature are quoted with commentary and depth. His longtime study of figure structure gives grounding to free brushwork and reflective boundaries, broken and kept. Here is the true exploration of my work. I try to see how close I can come to failure and still get back to meaning.

## **Artist's Statement 2011**

"In Defense of Disparity and Failure"

These portraits are more than face value.

I build each painting beginning with a substructure of mixed media arriving at an abstracted state. Three dimensional volume is described in paint and flat compositional elements are dominated by applied paper collage. Both paint and paper fight for dominance in a visual debate with incongruent voices. The design can be said to have occurred accidentally.

There is no absolute intention with the process. Words fail as I try and describe the end game. I am nearly pre language relying on the intuition that 35 years of practice affords me.

The deconstructed chaos begins with the painting on the floor and no model. I pour, push, and shove paint around to create an active surface. Now the painting goes back on the easel and I attack the drawing problem with red and black sharpies. Next comes the soft tonal description of form using large amounts of latex paint. Then paper collage applied on top of the paint describe planes and powerful color statements, but from a perspective unlike conventional painting. Oil paint is applied at the end and becomes the final arbiter that breathes the life into the figure.

Here is the true exploration of my work. I intend to see how close I can come to failure and still get back to meaning.

The final phase is the resin polymer poured over the surface of the work. It becomes the chrysalis for the disparate media to coalesce into a beautiful state.

Special thanks to:

Tim Tolman: Presentation Consultant

Diana Gardner: Collage Specialist

Travis Tanner: Framing

John Wright & Ameriprise: Sponsorship

## **Representation**

1987- Present Phillips Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT

(Continuous showing since 1987 show approximately every other  
**year**

## **Solo Exhibitions**

2011 Phillips Gallery Salt lake City, Utah

- 2005 University of Utah, President's House, Salt Lake City, UT (solo)
- 2004 Urban Bistro, Salt Lake City, UT (solo)  
Millcreek Library, Salt Lake City, UT (solo)
- 2001 Sweet Branch Library, Salt Lake City, UT (solo)
- 1999 Sweet Brach Library, Salt Lake City, UT (solo)
- 1994 Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA (solo)  
Pioneer Theatre Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT (solo)

## **Group Exhibitions**

- 2016 Two Person Show, Phillips Gallery, Salt lake City, Utah**
- 2015 Two Person Show, Coda Gallery, Palm Desert, California**
- 2014 Two Person Show, Phillips Gallery, Salt Lake City, Utah**
- 2014 Group Exhibition, Trove Gallery, Park City, Utah**
- 1987- Present Represented by Phillips Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT
- 1987- Present University of Utah, Annual Faculty Show, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2005 Bountiful Art Center Reunion Show, Bountiful, UT
- 2005 Finch Lane, Obsessed with Self, Salt Lake City, UT (2 person show)
- 2005 Poor Yorick, Provence Show, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2004 Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake City, UT  
College of Eastern Utah, Price, UT
- 2003 Salt Lake Art Center, Art and the Law, Salt Lake City, UT  
Springville Museum of Fine Art, Springville, UT
- 2002 Utah Artists Winter Olympic Venue, Salt Lake City UT  
Finch Lane Gallery, Salt Lake City, UT (2 person show)
- 2001 Mesa Fine Arts Center, Mesa, AZ
- 1993 Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 1992 Lowe Gallery, Santa Monica, CA  
College of Santa Fe Fine Arts Gallery, Santa Fe, NM
- 1991 LA Art Expo

## **Collections**

- Lou and Jody Borhgnicht collection
- Betty Ford Foundation, Utah Museum of Fine Art, Salt Lake County
- Administrative Government Collection, Bonnie Phillips, Halle Berry.

## **Bibliography**

- 2004 Utah Museum of Fine Art Quarterly (cover)
- 2003 Southwest Gallery Guide (cover)
- 2002 Winter Olympic Venue Publication (cover)
- 1999 Utah Art
- 1995 Utah Art (featured article by Bob Olpin)

## **Awards and Honors**

- 1999 Utah Permanent Collection Purchase
- 1992 Utah '92 Painting and Sculpture Jurors Award

## **Lectures/Public Speaking Engagements**

- 2004 College of Eastern Utah
- 2003 Utah Arts Council Lecture Series
- 2001 Casa Cultura, La Paz, Mexico (lectured in Spanish)
- 2001 Utah Pastel Society
- 1997 Utah Art Barn/Finch Lane Gallery Lecture Series

## **Education**

- University of Utah, Master of Fine Art, 1979-1981
- University of Utah, Bachelor of Fine Art, 1972-1976
- Yale University, Summer Fellowship, 1975

## **Recent Service**

- 2010 Juror for Bountiful Art Center Statewide Competition Bountiful, Utah
- 2010 Juror for Northern Utah High School Competition  
Weber State University Ogden, Utah