

Jana Matusz

Strength

My work is mostly about strength. It was no accident that for many years I chose to paint trucks and construction equipment. I found them strong, powerful, and purposeful. I traveled across the country, from Walla Walla to Roanoke to Orlando to the Big Dig, painting trucks. I still paint the occasional irresistible truck.

But I have moved on to (as I joke) “boulder work,” depicting powerful rocky environments and quiet nature. I work primarily along the New England coast, where the geology has an architectural majesty and timelessness, a quiet solidity and presence. I am inspired by rocks and cliffs, forest paths, lakes, streams and waterfalls, and dramatic landscape. The paintings are still about strength: strong composition, strong color, strong feeling.

As a woman, as a painter, I deeply identify with the rocks. Even the New England quarries, beaten and violated, have quiet dignity, beauty and strength.

Direct Observation

My work is also about process and experience. I draw and paint directly from observation, never from photographs. All of my landscape painting is done on site, outdoors. I also paint alla prima, all in one sitting. This is an extremely challenging way to work, particularly given the rigors of New England weather, but I believe it gives my paintings authenticity, freshness and immediacy.

The world is my studio: I take painting trips to places and landscapes which inspire me and resonate most strongly. I work most successfully when I am away from home, able to immerse myself in a place and concentrate on nothing but my painting. The Maine and New England coasts and quarries have been consistent sources of inspiration, but I am always exploring new places and subjects.

All of my paintings, whether they are landscapes, portraits, or still lifes, end up having a certain quality of strength. Over the years, I have come to realize that much of that strength and visual power comes from me, not just from the trucks, rocks, townscapes, or people I paint.



> texture



> expression



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Biography

Jana Matusz, from Arlington, Massachusetts, studied painting at Harvard University, Oxford University, Krakow's Academy of Fine Art, and Massachusetts College of Art. She taught for many years at the college level, and continues to teach selected workshops and classes.

Jana works exclusively from direct observation, never from photographs. Once an avid painter of trucks and construction equipment, she now finds inspiration in nature and landscape, and frequently paints the rocky coastal landscape of New England. Her subject matter also includes townscapes, still lifes, animals and people.

Jana travels frequently to spend concentrated periods of time on her painting, sometimes close by in New England, sometimes in places as far afield as Bermuda and the Czech Republic.

Her paintings are primarily in acrylic, but Jana loves to draw in all media – figure drawing is a particular passion.

Education

Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, Massachusetts, MFA, Painting – 1988-1990

Akademia Sztuk Pięknych im. Jana Matejki (Academy of Fine Arts), Krakow, Poland – 1986-1988

Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, (Catholic University of Lublin), Lublin, Poland – 1985-1986

Oxford University, Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford, England – 1984-1985

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, B.A. summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Visual and Environmental Studies – 1974-1978

Solo Exhibitions

"On the Edge of Expressionism," Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME – 2016

"Jana Matusz: Recent Paintings," Banks Gallery, Portsmouth, NH – 2014

"Jana Matusz: Artist in Residence," Masterworks Museum, Hamilton, Bermuda – 2011

"Jana Matusz: Paintings from Maine," St. Botolph Club, Boston, MA – 2010

"Jana Matusz: Paintings from Maine, Jana Matusz Drawings," Flora, Arlington, MA – 2010, 2009

"Rock Paintings," Quebrada Coffee House, Arlington, Massachusetts – 2003

"Jan Mazur – Paintings," Bentley College Art Gallery, Waltham, MA – 2000

"Truck Paintings," Ticknor Library, Boylston Hall, Harvard University – 1997

"Polish Map Paintings," Ticknor Library, Boylston Hall, Harvard University – 1990

Academy of Fine Art, Krakow, Poland – 1988

United States Consulate Gallery, Krakow, Poland – 1988

Exhibitions

Bar Harbor Inn, "Third Acadia Invitational," Bar Harbor, ME – 2017

Erpf Center, "Showcase of Catskills Paintings," Arkville, NY – 2017

Providence Art Club, "Natural Selections," Providence, RI – 2017

"Composed," Exhibition of figure drawings, Maxwell Mays Gallery, Providence Art Club, RI – 2014

17th & 18th Annual Boston International Fine Art Show, Cyclorama, Boston Center for the Arts – 2014, 2013

First Friday, Seasonal, and Works on Paper Exhibitions,
Argosy and Powers Galleries – 2013

Providence Art Club, New Members Exhibition
and Members 2013 Exhibition, Providence, RI – 2013

Argosy Gallery, Bar Harbor, ME – 2010

Acadia Artist in Residence Show, Argosy Gallery,
Bar Harbor, ME – 2009

“Focus on the Figure,” a group show, Out of the Blue Art
Gallery, Cambridge, MA – 2009

“A Hike Along the Coast,” Summer Art Exhibit at Old
Schwamb Mill, Arlington, MA – 2008

First Friday Art Walk – Featured artist, Argosy Gallery,
Portland, Maine – 2008

Open Studio, Heliker-LaHotan Foundation,
Great Cranberry Island, Maine – 2007

Regional Artists Juried Show, Ogunquit Art
Association – 2007

Construction Night Exhibition, Symphony Hall,
Boston, Massachusetts – 2006, 2005

Two-person show, Acacia Gallery,
Gloucester, Massachusetts – 2000

Group show, Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts,
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA – 2000

“Visiting Studio Faculty Exhibit,” Jewett Arts Center,
Main Gallery, Wellesley College – 1999

“Boston Artists and the Big Dig,” Bentley College Art
Gallery, Waltham, Massachusetts – 1999

“Boston Artists and the Big Dig,” Boston University Art
Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts – 1999

“Truck Paintings,” Jensen Fine Arts,
Edgartown, Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts – 1998

“Metaphors in Progress,” three-person show, Carpenter
Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard University – 1996

Two-person show, Oasis Gallery,
Providence, Rhode Island – 1991

“Sites,” MFA Thesis Exhibition, Huntington Gallery,
Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA – 1990

Group show, Galeria Jaskolka, Dom Polonii,
Krakow, Poland – 1988

Two-person show, Galeria Forum, Krakow, Poland – 1988

Residencies and Honors

Goetemann Residency, Rocky Neck Artist Colony,
Cape Ann, MA – 2016

Platte Clove Residency, Catskill Center, NY – 2016

Artist In Residence, Acadia National Park,
Schoodic Peninsula, Maine – 2014

Milkwood Artist Residency,
Cesky Krumlov, Czech Republic – 2012

Three-month Artist Residency, Masterworks Foundation,
Bermuda – 2011

Artist In Residence, Acadia National Park,
Schoodic Peninsula, Maine – 2010, 2009

Eastern Frontier Norton Island Artist Residency,
Norton Island, Maine – 2009

Robert M. MacNamara Foundation Artist Residency,
Westport, Maine – 2008

Heliker-LaHotan Foundation Artist Residency,
Cranberry Island, Maine – 2007

10 teaching awards (Certificates of Distinction in Teaching),
Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning,
Harvard University – 1990-2000

Study Grant, Polish Ministry of Art and Culture – 1988, 1987

Graduate Study Grant, Kosciuszko Foundation – 1987, 1986

Roothbert Fellow – 1989, 1978

Teaching and Professional Experience

Workshops and tutoring: Plein air painting, basic drawing skills, figure drawing, Acadia National Park, Maine, and The Arts Project, St. George's, Bermuda – 2000-present

Visiting Assistant Professor: Studio art, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA – 1999-2000

Teaching Assistant: Drawing, painting, and visual studies courses, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA – 1999-2000

Visiting Lecturer: Artist's Seminar, studio course, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA – 1992

Instructor: Introductory drawing and figure drawing courses, Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, MA – 1989-1990

Artist-in-Residence: Plein air and studio painting;
Teacher: drawing classes, Deer Valley YMCA Family Camp, Fort Hill, PA – 1986-1988

Bibliography

Samantha Nearon, "US Outdoor Artist to Share Knowledge at Workshops" *Royal Gazette*, Bermuda, June 7, 2014

Linda Price, "Jana Matusz: Create Your Best Paintings On-Site," *American Artist*, Vol. 17, Issue 67, Summer 2011

"Jana Matusz: Contemporary Edge," *American Art Collector*, Vol. 62, December 2010

George Lynde, "Art Opening: Jana Matusz," *St. Botolph Bulletin*, Boston, MA, Vol. 13, No. 2, Summer 2010

Kathleen Stephens, "Painter Sees Trucks as Fine Art," *The Daily Democrat*, Woodland, California, January 15, 1999

David Arnold, "Central Artistry Project: Painters, Photographers See Beauty in Big Dig," *The Boston Globe*, September 27, 1998

Gary Bricken, "Profile: Jan Mazur," *rpm Magazine for Truckers*, Vol. 7, Issue 5, May 1998

Gregory VanTighem, "Artist Finds in WW a Truck Load of Beauty," *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin*, Walla Walla, WA, November 7, 1997

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HOURS

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