

Artist Statement

Kathy Hodge was born in Rhode Island, in a neighborhood of Providence called Washington Park. At the age of 14 she took up her parents' oil paints, put aside since they graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design and raised their family of seven children. Following in their footsteps, she attended Rhode Island School of Design and majored in painting. After attending for two years she found it necessary to leave school and work for a year, then completed her education at the Swain School of Design in New Bedford, MA. After graduating she returned to Providence, where she was inspired by the drama and light effects of the industrial waterfront and the power of the huge ships which docked there. She was also attracted to the massive earth moving project of the river relocation in downtown Providence. The work she produced on these themes was exhibited in three one-person shows in 1991 and 1992.

Upon moving to Warren, RI her work was influenced by the stark organic forms of the salt marshes and the natural landscape which surrounded her home on the bay. She was also climbing and painting the White Mountains in New Hampshire. This interest in the natural landscape led to eight appointments as artist-in-residence by the National Parks Service. In 1993 she worked from a historic cabin in Rocky Mountain National Park. In 1997 she was invited to live and work for two weeks in a dune shack in the Cape Cod National Seashore. In 1998 she worked in Acadia National Park in Maine, and in 1999 she was taken by boat to a remote cabin on Sand Island in the Apostle Island National Lakeshore, 3 miles offshore on Lake Superior. She also worked Glacier National Park in Montana (2000) and spent a month in Badlands National Park in South Dakota (2002). In 2008 she stayed at Mesa Verde National Park, free to explore on her own and work in the ancient Puebloan cliff dwellings. In 2009 she returned to Colorado, this time to the Great Sand Dunes National Park, where she climbed the 700 foot dunes and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. In addition to painting the natural world, she has also produced a series of paintings of churches, using examples found from Providence to Newport. In the antique stores near her home she discovered dusty and broken ornate frames from the early 1900s, which relinquished ancestral portraits and religious prints, and now surround and enrich the church paintings.

Her current studio is in East Providence, RI, where she produced a series of paintings of her impressions of 10 days spent in Russia. The large paintings, ornately framed in mosaic tile, contrasted the stark Soviet architecture with the overwhelming decoration and Gothic images of the churches. This group was exhibited in a one person show at the Bert Gallery in Providence in 2002. A series of paintings taking inspiration from the view out the train window from Providence to New York City was exhibited in 2005 at the Bert Gallery. These paintings attempted to capture the experience not of motion, but the shifting focus as one's eye is attracted to the fascinating elements in the landscape as they are presented sequentially while traveling the Northeast Corridor. Hodge's latest series takes as a departure point images of heavy and oily cast-iron shoemaking machinery standing like totems around the perimeter of a custom shoemaking workshop in Warren, R.I. Other paintings in the series incorporate images found in a WWI scrapbook from the Ukraine, circa 1915. Images of paintings from these series can be seen at www.kathyhodge.com/paintings