

BIO

Jesse Connor's paintings develop in conversation with the miraculous and quotidian moments of his daily life, in which every experience—talking with family, running errands, noticing animals or architecture—evoke joy, humor, and mystery. Visions of paintings may emerge from interactions between shadow, light, and color, configurations of clouds, and other phenomena that catalyze the liminality in time, place, and memory within which Connor's paintings live.

A dedicated mentor to artists developing their craft, Connor has taught at several colleges in the Northeast, including the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Springfield Technical Community College, and Bennington College. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Art at Mount Wachusett Community College, as well as co-owner and founder of Boat Yard Art Space in Leverett, MA, where he paints and curates small exhibitions featuring emerging artists. He holds a BFA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an MFA from the University of Michigan.

Statement

Jesse Connor's images stem from the transformative & mysterious power of the natural world. The land and its infinite complexity invite a sense of connection, study, interpretation, and storytelling. These unwritten narratives are brought to life through onsite painting and imaginative compilations derived from travel and the internet. Connor develops a catalog of visual "source material" from which he creates wholly new spaces full of detail, color, light, and story.

These images often contain the contradictory feelings of beauty, solitude, and ambivalence. This disparity provides an engaging sense of tension and encourages the viewer's speculation. Images also explore the nuanced relationships between people and the land upon which they live. These relationships can be synergetic or conflicted but are always born of a profound interdependence and interconnectedness.