

# *Thomas Paquette*

## *BRIEF BIO*

Thomas Paquette has been a full-time artist for over three decades after finishing his MFA degree in Painting in 1988. His paintings have been featured in more than sixty solo exhibitions in museums and prominent galleries in New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Washington, DC, and elsewhere around the country.

Raised in the middle of a family of eleven children in Minneapolis, he dropped out of college midway through his first year, intent on seeing the wider world in a unique way. On and off for seven years, he explored North America by hitchhiking and hopping on freight trains that carried him thousands of miles to the edges of the continent and as far away as Alaska, until there were no more roads or rails.

Paquette graduated *summa cum laude* with a BFA in Painting from Bemidji State University in 1985, and earned an MFA on a full fellowship from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. He was awarded a three-year residency-fellowship in Miami Beach through the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts after finishing his degree. Other artist-residencies include American Academy in Rome, Aegean Arts and Cultural Exchange, Blue Mountain Center, Millay Colony, Vermont Studio Center, and Acadia, Yosemite, and Rocky Mountain national parks.

Solo museum exhibitions were installed at Dubuque Museum of Art, Erie Art Museum, Evansville Museum of Art and Science, Georgia Museum of Art, Minnesota Marine Art Museum, Quick Center for the Arts, The Rockwell Museum, Watermark Art Center, Westmoreland Museum of American Art, and Wildling Art Museum.

Forty of his paintings have been selected to hang in nineteen [U.S. embassies](#) on five continents, including in the cities of Rome, Brussels (NATO permanent collection), Athens, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Taipei, and Santiago. His works are included in numerous private, corporate, museum and state collections, and have been featured in [numerous publications](#). He has given talks at museums and universities in the U.S., and in Greece, Wales, and England.

Paquette completed several [commissions](#) for public and private entities, the largest of which were pieces for the state of Minnesota (one measuring 7 x 32 feet in length, and another 11 feet long) and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (a cycle of four works measuring 7 by 6 feet each).

He is represented by Gross McCleaf Gallery in Philadelphia, PA; Groveland Gallery in Minneapolis, MN; Meibohm Fine Arts in East Aurora, NY.

Thomas Paquette lives on the edge of the Allegheny National Forest outside Warren, Pennsylvania.