

# Into the Mystic

**Rich Bowman**

(Artist Statement for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 exhibition @ Craighead Green Gallery)

In my studio: Van Morrison sings, "It's too late to stop now"... as the music plays, those lyrics come into focus while I'm thinking to myself, "What's this group of paintings about? Fuck. What's all of this about?"

Sometimes I feel like Captain Ahab looking for Moby Dick. Willing to forgo any thought of what may lay ahead in the wake of my obsession. Be it my physical self or my personal life so I can get lost in a world of my creations. I've always told myself that I don't have an addictive personality. I'm finding out that's a lie!

Any creative, whether they're a song writer, abstract painter, sculptor, or whatever medium, is continually looking for truths. I recently read a quote that basically said creation lies within and once you've start looking inward and creating from that space, then you will find it. The truth? No, your truth. These works are mine. A painted space I've created from my experiences to share with whomever will join me.

A place of ease, reflection, peace, and tangible self. Truths.  
My mystic.

## **Artist Bio:**

(Written by Sara Ford)

There's something about the sky: something that prompts the spirit to soar especially during those magical moments when the sun retreats; it's work complete. Painter Rich Bowman's abstracted representational works are compelling. The broad sweep of the sky, alive with color and intriguing clouds towering above the landscape, evokes intense emotions in those seeking renewal.

Capturing the moods of the Midwestern sky is nothing short of a spiritual retreat for Bowman. "These familiar places calm my soul. The simple act of translating this subject matter grounds me," he explains. "In truth it's my meditation, my escape from life's everyday pressures. When I paint, time is erased and my mind is eased by the boundless skies and transitioning hues." Whether his paintings are serene or ominous - the artist says the emotion depends on his mood - Bowman's skylines provide an emotional oasis.

The painter's dusky sunsets, rich in texture and blended color, are captivating because of their intensity. "That's the time of day that really inspires me," Bowman says. The artist was born at sunset, a biographical fact that could be mere coincidence. On the other hand, Bowman's time of birth could have been a hint of what was to come. His environment certainly influenced his art.

Not long after he was born in 1969 in Sherman, Texas, Bowman's family moved to Missouri. Surrounded by thunderclouds, rolling fields, gentle hills and flat river plains, the artist grew to love the quixotic nature of the fluid environment. "The sky is always changing colors and shapes," Bowman says. "Every time you turn your head there is an experience to see."

Bowman went on to study art in high school. He also enrolled in figurative drawing classes offered at the Kansas City Art Institute. Because of that experience, the faculty of the prestigious institute encouraged Bowman to apply for a scholarship. Before he enrolled as a college student, Bowman debated whether to become an architect or an artist. "I decided that art was the more natural thing for me," he says, citing another example of following the dictates of his heart. Bowman eventually earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree there.

After graduation he went to work for Hallmark as an illustrator. Over time, he advanced within the company until he became a design manager. During that period Bowman also took on additional jobs, working as a freelance illustrator. "I did a lot of jobs for well known companies. The way I worked was slow and laborious," he says. "It just burned me out." Bowman decided to quit freelancing and to explore fine art.

In the beginning he wasn't certain what to paint. "I started going out in the country. Sunsets seemed to be a time of day when you could relax," Bowman explains. "They became kind of my meditation." As his work evolved, he learned to rely on memory and intuition. "My paintings are created from everyday images stored over a lifetime in my subconscious," Bowman says. "They are not about the details of a specific place. I try to convey a feeling of time and atmosphere through texture, design and color."

As a result, the artist experienced an exhilarating freedom and a sense of peace.

**Born:** 4/15/69 6:20 p.m. (sunset) Sherman, TX.  
Currently lives in Kansas City, Mo.

**Education:** Bachelor of Fine Arts, Kansas City Art Institute, May 91

**Exhibition:**

2019 Group exhibition, Craighead Green, Dallas, TX  
2019 2 person exhibition, Glave Kocen Gallery, Richmond, VA  
2019 Landscape Invitational, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, Mo  
2019 3 person show, Howard Manville Gallery, Kirkland, WA  
2018 Group exhibition, Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas, TX  
2018 Group Landscape exhibition, Arcadia Gallery, Culver City, CA  
2018 Solo exhibition, Bonner David Galleries, Scottsdale, AZ  
2017 Solo exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
2017 3 person show, Howard Manville Gallery, Kirkland, WA  
2016 Group exhibition, Craighed Green Gallery, Dallas, TX  
2016 Group exhibition, Howard Mandville Gallery, Kirlland washing  
2015 Solo exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
2014 Group show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
2014 Group exhibition, Craighed Green Gallery, Dallas, TX  
2013 Two person show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City MO  
2012 Group show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
2012 Group exhibition, Craighead Green, Dallas TX  
2011 Two man exhibition, Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, NM

2010 Solo Exhibition, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
2009 Group show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
2009 Group show, Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas, TX  
2009 Group show, Bonner David Galleries. Scottsdale, AZ  
2008 One man show, Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
2008 One man show, Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, NM  
2008 Group show, Craighead Green Gallery, Dallas, TX  
2007 Two man show, Meyer Gallery, Park City, Utah  
2007 Two man show, Howard/Mandville Gallery, Seattle, WA  
2007 Best of the Best, Group show, Bonner David Galleries. Scottsdale, AZ  
2006 One man show, The Blue Gallery Kansas City, MO  
2006 One Man show, Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, NM  
2006 Group show, Bonner David Galleries. Scottsdale, AZ  
2006 Group show, Love of the Land, Howard/Mandville Gallery, Kirkland, WA  
2006 One man exhibition, The Meyers Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ  
2005 Emerging Artist exhibition, Bennett Street Gallery, Atlanta, GA  
2005 One man exhibition, The Meyers Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ  
2005 One man show, Meyer Gallery, Santa Fe, NM  
2004 One man show, The Blue Gallery Kansas City, MO  
2004 Two man show at The Meyer Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ  
2003 Two man show at The Blue Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
2000 E-4 Corporate Art Exhibition, Overland Park, KS  
2000 Crit Group Show, Shiraz Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
1999 Crit Group Show, Shiraz Gallery, Kansas City, MO  
1999 Solo Show, Shiraz Gallery, Kansas City, MO

**Permanent Installations:**

Kansas City Research Medical Hospital  
Kansas City power/Light, KC, MO  
Mediflex, Kansas City, MO  
Akin, Gump LLP, Dallas TX  
Weil, Gotshal & Manges. New York, NY  
Shook, Hardy and Bacon LLP, Kansas City, MO  
Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
Overland Park Community Center, Overland Park, KS  
Spine & Specialty Hospital-Shawnee Mission, KS  
The Intercontinental Hotel-Kansas City, MO

Enturia, Inc.-Leawood, KS  
National Center for Drug Free Sports-Kansas City, MO  
Husch Blackwell Sanders Law Firm-Kansas City, MO  
Schlotzky's Inc., Austin TX.  
Aurther Bryant's Restaurant, Kansas City MO

**Awards:**

Meaningless Accolades, 2019, Mystic Publications  
Voted 2005 best visual artist in Kansas City by KC Magazine  
Society of Illustrators 35, 1994  
Society of Illustrators 34, 1993  
Kansas City Art Directors Association, Gold medal, painting,1992  
Society of Illustrators Student 33, 1992

**Publications:**

Northland Lifestyle Magazine, Oct. 2015  
Artist & Illustrators Magazine, UK, July 2011, Article on The Harmony of Analogy.  
Cover of Pitch Weekly, First Fridays Magazine Nov. 2010  
KC Magazine Nov. 2010  
Landscape Painting: Essential Concepts and Techniques for Plein Air and Studio Practice, Watson-Guptill/Random House, Nov 09  
Spaces Kansas City, Aug 09  
American Art Collectors 45, July 08  
Spaces Kansas City, March 08  
Southern Living magazine, Feb 08  
Design NJ magazine, New Jersey, June/July 07  
Winter Count, Poems by Connie Dover (cover art) -March 07  
American Art Collectors, Collectors preview for up coming show -March 07  
American Art Collectors, Featured Artist -May 06  
KC Magazine, Best visual artist in KC- Sept. 05  
Southwest Art magazine cover - Apr 04  
Southwest Art magazine - Oct 01  
Kansas City Home magazine - Mar 00  
Southwest Airlines magazine - Jun 97  
United Airlines magazine - Feb 97  
Kansas City Star - Nov 96

Mondavi wines - Aug 96

Society of Illustrators - 94, 93, 92