

JASON WALCOTT

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

First and foremost what compells me to paint is the joy of exploring the light on a subject. As an artist who works in a realistic and *chiaroscuro* style, light is the primary subject in all of my paintings, whether still lifes or landscapes. I am drawn to subjects in which the combination of light and color create something that is beautiful and magical. I especially admire the work of Rembrandt and Carravagio who were at the forefront of creating that style of painting.

My still life subjects are most often inspired by an object or series of objects that catches my eye and says "paint me!". I love the natural beauty and color of fruits, vegetables and flowers and often incorporate those items in my work along with some type of man made object, like a vase or pitcher. The combination of human creations along side nature's has always fascinated me. When lit in a way that conveys an emotion or feeling, that is what I strive to capture in my work. My ultimate goal is that the viewer will experience the same moment of recognition. I often think of the primary aspect of my still life paintings as being "Quiet Beauty".

When painting the landscape, I am driven by the same desire to capture the beauty of light and color but in this case nature has created the composition for me. I love the richness and organic detail of landscapes as well as the challenge of trying to capture the essence of what I see on a canvas. When painting landscapes you have to simplify the scene and yet retain its character. It never ceases to be fun to meet that challenge.

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