

As I See It

After a very long hiatus, I have been painting again for about twenty years and have always dreamed of having a solo show and dedicating it to the grade seven and eight art teacher who inspired me to create. I rarely pick up a brush without thinking of Rob Roi's class and all its creative energy.

The three other major influences in my painting are foremost my wonderful wife Debbie who has been extremely supportive and understanding. Catherine MacDonald who worked very hard to teach me to look at the model and paint what I saw and Catherine Gibbon who introduced me to the joys of painting outside even in winter and who has me seeing glorious colour everywhere.

Painting is, for me, a very spiritual activity. When I am working I am totally engrossed in the subject matter. If it is a model sitting for me, I am absolutely focused on them and the subtle differences that make that person unique. If outdoors, it can be the way clouds tumble across the sky or the way a tree's branches reach out for the light or the shadows cast on the snow by a very warm sun. I am forced to really look at the world around me and to appreciate its beauty and complexity.

I don't always strive for a perfect likeness when I paint. In portraits I try to capture a bit of the personality of the sitter and in landscapes, the mood or feel of the day. Sometimes it is bright and cheerful and at other times dark and somber but every day is special and I revel in the fact that I am able to experience it in a very intense way.

Working from photographs doesn't allow the intimacy that working from life does and that's what motivates me. All paintings, but one, in this show were painted from life in one sitting: **"As I See It"**.