

the Art Cellar

Jason Hatcher

Jason Hatcher is a professional photographer and self-taught painter, and a native of Avery County, NC. His painting is primarily concerned with the exploration of color as an expression of thought, communication, emotion and freedom. He divides his time between his work in South Carolina and his studio in Avery County. He comes home to the mountains to paint and breathe whenever possible.



“So - my son and I were walking in a park in West Chester, Ohio one evening a few years ago. The sun was setting, and the sky was absolutely on fire, one of those breathtaking, fairy-tale sunsets Hollywood tries to recreate and never quite seems to get exactly right. I stopped to take it in, and my son looked at me and said, “All my life, you’ve been stopping to look at sunsets. It never fails – you always stop to look and you always talk about it, like you’ve never seen one before.” I thought that was funny – I mean, it’s great that he’ll remember that about me, and maybe it will increase his own appreciation for the God-made things. I certainly hope so. In any case, I suppose that’s the thing about me – I’m always looking, and I love the sky, and the horizon, and the astonishing ongoing conversation between the earth and the sky. I grew up in the mountains of North Carolina, in Avery County, and I never spent a single moment indoors if I could help it. I loved being outdoors and up on a mountainside, and I loved the space, above all, the sense of openness and infinite expanse. It seemed like freedom, if only you could just take flight. So that continues. I am forever looking up, and out, towards the horizon.

“So about the painting - I paint intuitively, using memory and meditation to inform the process. Some of my work is based largely on my memory of landscape – places I have been, like the California coast. Color and atmosphere and a sense of place all matter to me, but especially color. Some of my work is more internal, based on emotion or recent experience, or unanswered questions. The work that includes script is about the difficulty of communication, the things we could have said, or the things for which we cannot find words.”