

ARTIST REX MAURICE OPPENHEIMER



Primarily self taught, Rex Maurice Oppenheimer has won awards as both an artist and writer. His writings include many nonfiction books and articles, poetry and lyrics for songs recorded on Capitol and Arista Records. His paintings have been exhibited in a variety of venues and purchased by collectors in the United States and abroad.

A dual French and American citizen, he has traveled extensively and lived on four continents. A combination of wanderlust, romanticism and artistic passion propelled him through a checkered past, which included everything from smuggling pre-Columbian art out of Mexico, songwriting in Los Angeles, vagabonding throughout India and across Asia, to living in London's Belgravia replete with Rolls and chauffeur.

Oppenheimer had won awards as an artist at an early age, but for whatever reason writing came to dominate his life

for many years. The desire to paint, which had smoldered within, blazed forth some years ago when he was living in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he met and studied briefly with the Artist Roger Williams.

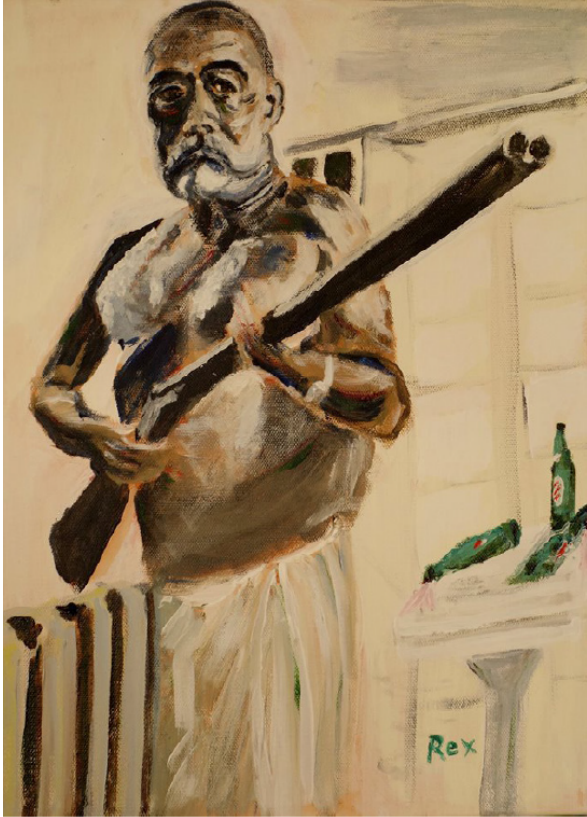
He says he is entranced by the ability of pigment brushed onto canvas to create the color, texture and form of people, places and things in a way that somehow displays and evokes more than just those things. That reveals magic in the ordinary and speaks to a mystical connection, felt more than thought, with those forms.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

The ineffable echoes through the colors and shapes of the ordinary scenes and objects I paint. The commonplace speaks a mantra of existence and the colors blend a body of reality around an abstract heart.

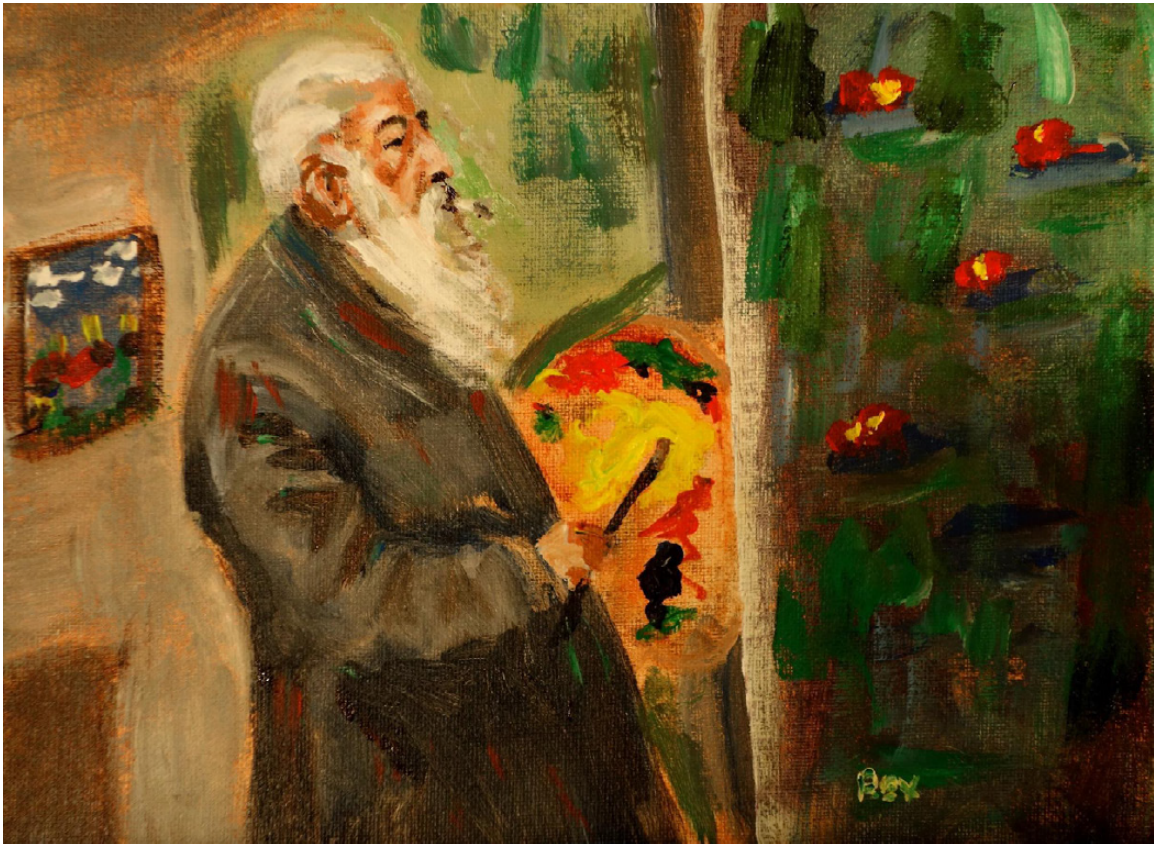
To try and keep it simple, a painting is not a photograph. A brushstroke, a shape of color, can evoke feeling beyond it's meaning. I like abstract art, and I like representational art. I particularly like when the two meet. I was greatly influenced by the Impressionists. I hope to find the intersection of the unknown and the commonplace, to bring the soul of the mountain to the surface of its stones.

From a certain perspective everything is abstract in the sense that it is just shape, color and light. Look closely at a section of an incredibly realistic lace collar painted by Rembrandt, and it appears to be blobs and strokes of paint in different values.



In painting things I see, I am deconstructing them into shapes of color. Brushstrokes coalesce those color shapes on the canvas to create thoughts and feelings beyond the image we have given a name.

Although his early poems were rather hard-edged, fist in the air, anti-establishment-based rhetoric, which sprang from the



notion that he knew much more than he really did, or that one could know things he now believes are unknowable, Oppenheimer finally found his voice with a much more solid, if not yet settled, style of verse.

Still tinged with the tone one might expect from a poet who has journeyed with one-way tickets on second-class sleepers throughout Asia, and whose education, while enhanced by reading an eclectic range of authors, owes the bulk of its knowledge to the rock and roll streets of experience, his work has been tempered by time and the elements.

It is a voice that sees the cosmos in simple, real terms, focusing on human existence at the intersection of the unknown and the commonplace.

Where two people share the task of making a bed, surrounded by a city of souls, dreaming, stealing, working, living and dying, by a nation full of torment, aspiration, disappointment and dedication, an earth on which we are just now seeing the light

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of stars that died nine billion years ago, a solar system with asteroids streaking toward planets, a universe with thousand and thousands of galaxies, and...

These two people, tucking in the sheets, find comfort and contentment in each other's being. Admiring their strengths and appreciating their foibles, they watch as life's tempests lay bare an honest core of love, as mysterious as a black hole in space and as ordinary as a smile. Understanding to the depth of their being that faith in each other and in creation can bring them life's little peace.

You can purchase Rex's work of art at:

Saatchi's online gallery: <http://www.saatchiart.com/account/profile/299913>

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