

P R I N C I P L E G A L L E R Y

About the Artist: Christopher James Ward

Christopher James Ward was born in New Castle, New Hampshire in 1968. Ward is an American landscape and maritime painter known for the rich luminosity and detail of his work. M. Melissa Wolfe, former curator at the Columbus Museum of Art and currently the curator and the head of the Department of American Art at the Saint Louis Art Museum, wrote; “Ward’s contribution to this genre is fresh and original, as equally enlivened by the boldness of a personal vision as it is unencumbered by expressions of indebtedness.”

Together, art and the sea have been formative elements in Ward’s progress. He spent summers in Cape Split, Maine accompanied by the artistic pursuits of his mother, a local portrait painter who was following her studies at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Amongst his peers, Ward chose to pursue a path separate from that of standard academic training, and at the age of seventeen he decided to follow his craft through nature and experience. His confidence in personal vision and independent integrity contributed to the development of his memorable and unmistakable artistic ‘signature’ and remain at the forefront of his work today.

Ward represents his initial perspective on a location through his comprehensive painting method. He often begins onsite, creating oil sketches to preserve both the natural atmosphere and mood of the place. Once completing the sketches, he turns to archival maps and historical documentation to create a finished drawing and begin the actual composition. The finished painting will maintain the freshness of his original inspiration while presenting a many layered, meticulously detailed piece of maritime history. The works embody Ward’s simple desire to “create a power that viewers can connect with... to put myself into my paintings,”

Currently, Ward splits his time between New Hampshire and the Washington D.C. area with occasional travels to Alaska, London, and France. Although with the vast beauty that North America provides, Ward has elected in recent

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years to remain stateside and concentrate on the Eastern seaboard. As a twelfth generation native of New Castle, New Hampshire, Ward's commitment to preserving the beauty of the East Coast runs deep; he is an active outdoorsman as well as a New Hampshire wilderness guide.