

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

About the Artist: Mark Demstader

Mark Demstader was born in 1963 in Manchester, England. He attended Rochdale College in Toronto, Oldham Art College in Oldham, England, and Slade School of Fine Art in London, England.

His work has developed from his fascination with the human form and classical themes. These interests can be perceived in his recent paintings, Demstader's close observation combined with surface texture and balanced compositions create a beautifully powerful representation of the human figure. He favors absorbent, handmade Indian paper called "Khadi" because the natural ingredient in it such as grasses and leaves add another element to the finished artwork.

Demstader's paintings are about movement, dynamism, and expression. He believes a drawing that is tight and overworked is to be avoided at all costs. The artist admires the accidental marks that occur as he works. He will mix pastel and water, often with a hairdryer close by to dry the unpredictable results.

Mark Demstader prefers to have space to move around while he works. Therefore, he rents space in an old mill in Manchester, which he uses as a studio. According to the artist, he makes too much of a mess thus working at home isn't an option. Demstader has received various honors such as, The Public Eye Award, The Lyceum Prize, and The Sidney Andrews Scholarship. He currently lives and works in his hometown of Manchester.