

Linden Frederick Untold Stories

by Kathryn C. Swords

Haynes Galleries welcomes Belfast, Maine, artist Linden Frederick on April 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. for *Linden Frederick: Untold Stories*. “We became acquainted through my gallery in Maine,” Gary Haynes explains, “and I found his sense of craft and creativity, attention to detail, and intelligence in storytelling are outstanding. He’s doing a narrative of a piece in time, and we can project ourselves into the smells, atmosphere, even feel the breezes inherent in his paintings.”

I caught up with Linden in Florida, when he was heading out to fish in hopes of catching dinner. Asked about the mesmerizing images he creates, he answered, “I use photographs only as a reference, a starting point for ideas, finding information and then reconstructing and reconfiguring it in my mind.” Photographs of rural Maine, and from a 4,280-mile cross-country bike trip, provide seeds of inspiration for his work, which he views as very American, cultural, and narrative.

“The original photo eventually becomes irrelevant as I build the painting. Mood is a central factor, and place, culture, and narrative evolve from painting places and telling stories through an implied narrative. It’s like creating a set, and I become a set designer, utilizing dusk and night as lighting.” Intentionally leaving figures out of his landscapes, Frederick draws viewers into place and time illustrated, creating a uniquely personal experience in which the viewer completes the story.

About his daily creative process: “I started playing violin four years ago, and then cello, which upon waking I tend to play for an hour while studying my paintings, which prepares me for the creative process.” Scale starts small for his paintings, with 8” x 8” considered “studies” in which he solves problems. “Often I’ll work simultaneously on the study and a larger-scale work of the same scene.” When painting, Linden listens to audio books, which helps his mind relax, while he finds music facilitates the more meticulous and mathematical aspects of the drawing process. When not immersed in painting, he works in another one of the three studios he designed, doing carpentry, working on bow repair (called rehairing), and even handcrafting a cello of his own design. ✓

Linden Frederick: Untold Stories is on display at Haynes Galleries April 12 to May 18. Frederick will be at Haynes Galleries to talk about his work with *Nashville Arts Magazine* and the public on Saturday, April 13, from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. The reception is open to all. For more information, visit www.haynesgalleries.com.



Mohawk, 2004, Oil on linen, 60" x 60"



Dairy Dream, 2008, Oil on panel, 12.25" x 12.25"



Trio, 2010, Oil on linen, 40" x 40"