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[High resolution photos available at www.kurtankeny.com/press]

[PRESS RELEASE] Local Artist Turns His Five Years in Ipswich into a Graphic Novel

Recent Salem transplant Kurt Ankeny is a painter and a cartoonist who spent the previous five years living in Ipswich, MA with his family. He chronicled his time there in a graphic novel titled: *In Pieces: Someplace Which I Call Home*, which he self-published this past October. While walking to and from his studio in downtown Ipswich, Ankeny began seeing things around town that struck him as unusual and he began to make mental notes that eventually became the book.

“When we first moved here I found that the inhabitants of Ipswich are much more reserved than the people in Gloucester, where we lived before that. Growing up in Milwaukee in the midwest, I was used to that attitude, but it seemed very strange in such a small town,” Ankeny explained. That sense of oddness first turned into a 30-painting series of peopled city-scapes that Ankeny would see while walking around town. And then little events caught his eye that he couldn’t fit into paintings. “I hadn’t really made comics for about 8 years at that point, but those stories needed an outlet.”

The result was a book filled with delicate pencil drawings that form brief stories that all have to do with the people and sights in Ipswich. Ankeny says that he hoped to capture a sense of the character of the town as it seemed to him, an obvious outsider, and make a book that feels like a proper characterization of a place and time.

Kurt Ankeny is an award-winning cartoonist and painter whose work has appeared at the Society of Illustrators, at the Cape Ann Museum, and in Comics Workbook. He’s the author of *Saltwater Snow*, *Dark Desert Dawn*, *Gulls*, and *The Santoro School Guide to Making Better Comics*. He lives with his wife and son in Salem, Massachusetts.

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