

# John Torina

Torina is no stranger to the unknown. Since his teenage years, he has been on the road in some shape or form, first as a musician in a Rock n' Roll band and finally as a visual artist, yet always exploring far-off countries and embracing new cultures.

In this same way, the Artist approaches painting. He paints on site in marshes, fields and coastlines along the Gulf Coast. The locations are always happenstance. Oftentimes Torina will drive aimlessly down a dirt road and discover the subtle beauty in the wetlands of the Georgia seaside or the amber grains in fields along Arkansas highways. He captures the scene as it is before him, but also innately translates the inexpressible feeling that comes along with it.

The paint is applied in a heightened gesture that reveals impressionable landscapes and astonishing skies from sunrise to sunset. The contrasting colors of the green countryside and the open blue sky create a dramatic and impactful setting that resonates as much with the artist as it does with the viewer. It is an opportunity to escape into the unknown and understand the world's natural splendor.

In the Memphis Commercial Appeal, writer Fredric Koeppel wrote: *"Torina's proficiency has attained near mystical levels. He inhabits the realm of landscape and sky lent weight and substance by the action of pigment, the intensity of vision and the evocative depths of shadow."*

## Education

1986 MFA, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

1982 BFA, Memphis College of Art, Memphis,

1975 University of Memphis, Memphis

## Galleries

Veronique Wantz Gallery, Minneapolis, MN

## Solo exhibitions

- 2014 The Spirits Hammer, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2011 In The Gloaming, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2010 John and Clare Torina, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis
- 2009 The Angelus, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2007 Path in the Wilderness, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2004 Gathering Up the Sparks, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis,
- 2003 16 Patton Gallery, Asheville, NC
- 2001 David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2000 Wyndy Morehead Gallery, New Orleans
- 1999 Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 1998 Heaven & Earth, Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 1995 Automatic Slim's Tonga Club, Memphis

- Wild Studio & Gallery, Memphis
- 1994 Automatic Slim's Tonga Club, Memphis  
Christian Brothers College, Memphis
- 1992 The Bell-Ross Gallery, Memphis  
Henry Easterwood Gallery, Memphis  
Harris Gallery, Houston
- 1991 Bingham Kurts Gallery, Memphis
- 1989 Alice Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1988 Alice Bingham Gallery, Memphis
- 1986 Oregon Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene

**Group exhibitions**

- 2014 'Surrender to Nature', Veronique Wantz Gallery, Minneapolis
- 2014 'Introspective & Retrospective' Veronique Wantz Gallery, Minneapolis
- 2013 Price is Right, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2012 Price is Right, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2011 Price is Right, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2010 Interpretation of Landscape, Virginia Miller Gallery, Miami
- 2009 Price is Right, David Lusk Gallery, Memphis
- 2008 Virginia Miller Gallery, Miami  
Hanson Gallery, Knoxville
- 2004 Jackson Summer Art Salon, David Lusk Gallery, Jackson, MS
- 2003 Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta
- 2002 Fay Gold Gallery, Atlanta  
Flowers and Art, Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Memphis  
16 Patton Ave. Gallery, Asheville, NC
- 2000 Wyndy Morehead Gallery of Fine Art, New Orleans
- 1999 Hodges Taylor Gallery, Charlotte, NC
- 1998 Director's Council Exhibit, Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis  
Spectrum '98, Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga
- 1997 Spectrum '97, Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga  
Center for Southern Folklore, Oxford, MS
- 1996 Tree As Icon, Ledbetter Lusk Gallery, Memphis  
Spectrum '96, Hunter Museum of American Art, Chattanooga Architects Inc.  
Invitational, Askew Nixon Ferguson Architects, Memphis
- 1994 Wild Studio & Gallery, Memphis
- 1995 Mississippi State University Faculty Show, Starkville, MS
- 1993 Memphis Botanical Gardens Invitational, Memphis
- 1992 The Parthenon, Nashville
- 1990 Memphis College of Art Faculty Show, Memphis
- 1989 Memphis College of Art Faculty Show, Memphis  
Little Rock Museum of Art, Little Rock  
Our Earth Invitational, Coos Bay Museum, Coos Bay, OR
- 1987 Memphis College of Art Faculty Show, Memphis
- 1986 University of Oregon Faculty Show, Eugene, OR  
Lane Community College Faculty Show, Eugene, OR

### **Awards and honors**

1984-86 Graduate Teaching Fellowship, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR  
1984 Johnson Scholarship, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR  
Pennell Scholarship, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR  
1982 Quest 82 Senior Art Competition/Teaching Fellowship, University of  
Memphis,  
1981 Colonel Sam Plough Scholarship, Memphis College of Art, Memphis  
Junior Travel Award, Memphis College of Art, Memphis  
Alex Camp Memorial Award, Memphis College of Art, Memphis

### **Publications**

Fredric Koeppe, Nature in all of its glory comes to light through pigment, The  
Commercial Appeal, May 6, 2011  
Arts Calendar, visual, Memphis Business Journal, May, 2011, p22  
In the Blood, John Torina and Clare Torina, Dixon Gallery Newsletter Exhibitions, Dixon  
Gallery and Gardens, Memphis, July 2-Sept 26, 2011,  
Carol Knowles, Up Close and Personal: John Torina, Lisa Jennings, George Shaw,  
Memphis Flyer, Feb 14, 2007, p 35  
Arts Calendar, Memphis Business Journal, visual, Feb 16-22, 2007, p.35  
John Nelson, Rhythm of the River, Mystery Mississippi, The Painter, Commercial Appeal,  
Dec 26, 2006, p.A1-2  
Balance of Earth and Sky: The Landscape of John Torina, Museums and Galleries,  
Regional Landscape, Summer 2003, p.A6-7  
Junior League of Memphis, 75th Anniversary Crystal Ball, Cover image, April 1997  
Arts Calendar, Memphis, TN, 1986

### **Corporate collections**

Arthur Andersen, Memphis  
The Assisi Foundation, Memphis  
Butler Snow, Memphis  
Citizens Bank, Marion, AR  
Crescent Club Building, Memphis  
FDX Corporation, Memphis  
First Tennessee Bank, Memphis  
Ford & Harrison, Memphis  
Glankler Brown, Memphis  
Hampton Inn & Suites, Atlanta  
Holiday Inn Corporation Headquarters, Atlanta  
International Paper Headquarters, Memphis  
Junior League of Memphis, Memphis  
Little River Bank, LePanto, AR  
Memphis Association of Realtors, Memphis  
Noel Associates Firm  
One Commerce Square, Memphis, TN  
Peabody Hotel, Memphis, TN  
Pfizer, Memphis, TN  
Promus Hotel Corporation Headquarters, Memphis, TN  
Turley Properties, Inc., Memphis, TN

Victory Bank, Memphis, TN