



BRIAN REGO PRESENT MEMORY

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 29, 2021



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Present Memory by Brian Rego is a collection of eleven oil paintings that bring into focus fleeting moments of daily life. Beginning each painting *en plein air*, Rego reaches a work's resolution back in his studio. By distancing himself from the original source of inspiration, he empowers his imagination and memory to complete the painting process. The final works combine sensitive observations of light and atmosphere with inventive perspectives and moods.

Rego's paintings capture outdoor scenes found in his immediate environment. Living in Charleston, South Carolina, Rego is influenced by quiet instances of quotidian beauty: sailboats glimpsed through foliage (*Boats on Stono River*); sunlight sparkling atop water (*The Battery*); or patchworks of clouds shifting over a local landmark (*Pineapple Fountain*), to name a few. Most paintings are punctuated by one or more figures placed at the periphery or tucked into shadows. In *Succession*, smoke twists out of four chimneys, while minuscule characters go about their activities. *East Bay Street* depicts an earthy red building aglow in the afternoon sun. The bust of a passerby is captured in the bottom center, and through the picture-plane one can almost touch the radiating heat.

Less concerned with recording the factual details of a scene, Rego uses color relationships and visible brushstrokes to evoke his impressions of a particular event. The physicality of his built-up, tactile surfaces echoes the energetic hum of daily life, imbuing each work with a sense of movement. *Path, As One Knows Another*, and *Girl in a Garden* feature dramatic sloping horizons and axes. Like scenes peered at through a fisheye lens, these spaces feel expansive and enveloping. Adding to this sensory quality, the artist achieves distinct qualities of light through his penchant for tone and color. *Girl on Dock, Man at the Battery*, and *Waterfront Park* all suggest specific times of day.

The fleeting moments that Rego pauses to notice are elevated through his sensual articulation of them in paint. A deeply perceptual artist, Rego's paintings celebrate the experience of seeing.

— NANCY MARGOLIS GALLERY, 2021

GIRL ON DOCK

2020

Oil on board

14 x 17 ½ inches



EAST BAY STREET

2021

Oil on board

11 1/8 x 14 1/8 inches



WATERFRONT PARK

2021

Oil on board

10 x 14 inches



AS ONE KNOWS ANOTHER

2021

Oil on canvas

14 x 18 inches



GIRL IN A GARDEN

2020–2021

Oil on canvas

20 x 29 inches



BOATS ON STONO RIVER

2020

Oil on board

14 ¼ x 17 inches



MAN ON THE BATTERY

2021

Oil on canvas

12 x 16 inches



SUCCESSION

2021

Oil on canvas

28 x 36 inches



PINEAPPLE FOUNTAIN

2021

Oil on canvas

22 x 28 inches



THE BATTERY

2021

Oil on board

11 1/8 x 16 inches



PATH

2020

Oil on canvas

26 x 28 inches





My creative approach is to combine imagination and memory with the sense of sight and components from the observable world. I paint to bear witness to such things. I want to express these experiences through the language and play in pictorial imagery.

As I develop the painted image, I participate in a reality that is rich, strange, and full of beauty.

— BRIAN REGO

EDUCATION

- 2007 M.F.A. Painting, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
2004 B.F.A. Painting, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Present Memory*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, Online Viewing Room
2019 *Tiny Mirrors*, John Davis Gallery, Hudson, NY
Affections, Southside Gallery, Oxford, MS
2017 *Recent Paintings*, John Davis Gallery, Hudson, NY
2012 *Recent Paintings*, City Art Gallery, Columbia, SC
2010 *Millbank*, University of South Carolina, Aiken, SC
2008 *Millbank*, City Art Gallery, Columbia, SC

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *NMG Summer Pop-Up*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, Online Viewing Room
2020 *Tapped*, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
Summer is Here: A Summer Exhibition, Thomas Deans Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
2019 *In the Neighborhood*, Zeuxis, THERE, New York, NY
Van Gogh and His Inspirations, Columbia Museum of Fine Art, Columbia, SC
Departures From Observation, Perceptual Painters, Rusty Flack Art Gallery, Wyoming Seminary, Kingston, PA
Plein Air, Lancaster Galleries, Lancaster, PA
A Web of Artists: Friends from Social Networks, Thomas Deans Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
Landscape Painting Exhibition, Southside Gallery, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
2018 Art at Kings Oaks, Newtown, PA
Landscape Painting Exhibition, Southside Gallery, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
Summer Invitational, Lancaster Galleries, Lancaster, PA

- 2017 *Perceptual Painters*, Flippo Gallery, Randolph Macon College, Ashland, VA
2016 *Night Sun*, Southside Gallery, Curated by Philip Jackson, Perceptual Painters, Oxford, MS
Juried Exhibition, Blue Mountain Gallery NYC, Juror: Stanley Lewis, New York, NY
Imagination Land, Brian Rego & David Campbell, Visual Arts Center, Tidewater Community College, Portsmouth, VA
2015 *Small Works Invitational*, Blue Mountain Gallery NYC, New York, NY
Subject and Subjectivity, The Cade Center for the Fine Arts, Anne Arundel Community College, Baltimore, MD
2014 *Juried Exhibition*, Juror: John Dubrow, Blue Mountain Gallery NYC, New York, NY
The Metaphysics of Presence, Q Art Salon, Santa Ana, CA
Commonplace: Landscapes, Figures, and Still-life, Meeting Street Gallery, Charleston, SC
Perceptual Painters: A Contemporary Movement, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH
Observation and Invention: The Space of Desire, Perceptual Painters, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA
Color: Imagined and Observed, Andrews Gallery, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
Benedict College, Columbia College Joint Faculty Exhibition, City Hall of Columbia, Columbia, SC
2013 *On the Horizon: Contemporary Landscape Painting*, Adelphi University, Garden City, NY
Landscape Painting Exhibition, Southside Gallery, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
En Plein Air, The Drawing Room Gallery, Cos Cob, CT
Real & Remembrance, *Perceptual Painters*, 39th Street Gallery, Gateway Arts Center, Brentwood, MD
Perceptual Painters, Kentucky School of Art at Spalding University, Louisville, KY
Everything in its Right Place, Perceptual Painters, University of Southern Mississippi Art Museum, Hattiesburg, MS
2012 *Spring Gala Exhibition*, University of South Carolina, McKissick Museum, Columbia, SC
2011 *Benedict College Faculty Exhibition*, 80808 Gallery, Columbia, SC
2010 *18th Annual Juried Exhibition*, Juror: Rackstraw Downes, Bowery Gallery, New York, NY
2009 *Perceptual Painters: The Collective*, City Art Gallery, Columbia, SC
2008 *Young Philadelphia Realists*, Johnson State College, Johnson, VT
2007 *Annual MFA Student Exhibition*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2011 First Place, “Bring Us Your Best,” Arts Council of Henderson County, Hendersonville, NC
2004 Ed Yaghjian Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
1998 Gold Key, The Scholastic Art and Writing Award for Excellence in Visual Arts, Lander University, Greenwood, SC

PRESS

- 2019 Artsy, John Davis Gallery, <https://www.artsy.net/davis-gallery/artist/brian-rego>
2017 CMD-ZINE, Artist Interview: Brian Rego, Interviewed by Greg Burak, commandzine.com
Artist Interview: Brian Rego, Interviewed by Lianne Minnis, <http://bssschool.org/brian-rego-interview/>
2014 Painting Perceptions: Observation and Invention: The Space of Desire, PAFA, paintingperceptions.com
2012 Heid, Karen; “Artist Brian Rego,” ArtSee Publication
Powers of Observation – Artist Brian Rego, powersofobservation.com
2011 Painters Table Features Brian Rego, painters-table.com
Painting Perceptions: Upcoming Painter: Brian Rego, Interviewed by Larry Groff, paintingperceptions.com
2009 Painting Perceptions: Perceptual Painters Group, Written by Larry Groff, paintingperceptions.com
2008 Day, Jeffery, “Artist’s Off-Kilter Paintings Reflect His New Life,” South Carolina’s The State: Arts

TEACHING / VISITING ARTIST

- 2019 Visiting Artist & Guest Critic, Instructor, Landscape Painting Program, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
Art Instructor, Intermediate Art Program, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
2018 Workshop: The Fiction of Sight, Art New England, Bennington College, Bennington, VT
2-Man Workshop: Brian Rego & David Campbell, Alternating Spaces, Perceptual Painters, Williamsburg, VA
Visiting Artist & Guest Critic, Instructor, Landscape Painting Program, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

- Art Instructor, Intermediate Art Program, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Guest Lecturer, First Timeness, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA
Guest Lecturer, Phenomena of Sight, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
2017 Workshop: Landscape Painting, Art New England, Bennington College, Bennington, VT
2-Man Workshop: Brian Rego & Matt Klos, Beverly Street Studio School, Staunton, VA
Visiting Artist & Guest Critic, Instructor, Landscape Painting Program, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
2-Man Workshop: Brian Rego & David Campbell, Landscape Painting, Perceptual Painters, Charleston, SC
Art Instructor, Intermediate Art Program, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
2016 Art Instructor, Intermediate Art Program, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC
Workshop: Landscape Painting, Beverly Street Studio School, Staunton, VA
2-Man Workshop: Brian Rego & David Campbell, Perceptual Painters, Figure Painting, Columbia, SC
2-Man Workshop: Brian Rego & David Campbell, Perceptual Painters, Landscape Painting, Williamsburg, VA
Art Instructor, Drawing and Painting, Midlands School of Art, Columbia, SC
Visiting Critic & Lecturer, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
Visiting Critic & Lecturer, Indiana University, Bloomington, IU
2015 Speaker & Faculty, Painting, Mount Gretna School of Art, Mount Gretna, PA
Workshop: Intro to Painting, City Art Gallery, Columbia, SC
2-Man Workshop: Brian Rego & David Campbell, Perceptual Painters, Landscape Painting, Columbia, SC
2-Man Workshop: Brian Rego & David Campbell, Perceptual Painters, Landscape Painting, Williamsburg, VA
Art Instructor, Drawing and Painting, Midlands School of Art, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing, Painting 2, Benedict College, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Drawing 1, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
2014 Workshop: Drawing, The Lourie Center, Columbia, SC
Workshop: Intro to Painting, City Art Gallery, Columbia, SC
Visiting Artist & Guest Speaker, Perceptual Painting, Manifest Creative Research Gallery and Drawing Center, Cincinnati, OH

Adjunct Professor, Painting 1, Figure Painting, Drawing 2, Benedict College, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing 1, Drawing 1, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC

2013 Visiting Artist & Guest Critic, Instructor, Landscape Painting Program, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
Workshop: Intro to Painting, City Art Gallery, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Painting 2, Drawing 2, Figure Drawing, Benedict College, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing 1 & 2, Drawing 1, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC

2012 Workshop: Landscape Painting, Jerusalem Studio School, Civita Castellana, Italy
Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing 1 & 2, Drawing 1, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Intermediate Drawing 1 & 2, Columbia College, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Painting 1, Figure Drawing, Drawing 2, Benedict College, Columbia, SC

2011 Adjunct Professor, Painting 1 & 2, Figure Drawing, Drawing 2, Benedict College, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing 1 & 2, Intro to Watercolor, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South
Carolina, Columbia, SC

2010 Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing, Art Seminar, Painting 1, Benedict College, Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing 1 & 2, Drawing 1, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC
Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing 1 & 2, Drawing 1, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC

2009 Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing 1 & 2, Drawing 2, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC

2008 Adjunct Professor, Figure Drawing 1, Drawing 1, 2-D Design, Foundations, University of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC



