

**Artist's Statement and Bio: Jay Ryan**  
**Wilbur Point Studio**  
**jayryanpaints.com | 508-922-6895**

I spent equal parts of a 34-year work career as an art teacher and school administrator, always around people, always having to talk—a lot. What I love about painting is its silence. Uncomfortably bright contrasts of light and surrounding shadows are usually what first attract me and trigger ideas for paintings, then I try to mix those blasts of light with images of friends or family and objects and places in and around my studio. I live and work at Wilbur Point in Fairhaven and it's surrounded by ocean, so the sun is reflected off the water in different ways on different days. There are virtually no trees around to diminish the light so I often wonder if I see color and light differently than everyone who lives *farther up the road*.

I've always been drawn to the figure and I love to paint it directly in watercolor. Weekly figure sessions and access to some great local models keep that aspect fresh. During my time in the studio I try to incorporate images from multiple sources into each painting—old photos, iPhone shots, objects in the studio, the very local landscape outside my studio and the live model. Playing with the washes and transparencies and drips and accidents are what make watercolor such a fun medium for me; it's not always predictable. And since starting to work real large nearly a year ago, it's just become that much more exciting to go into the studio each day.

**CURRENT/RECENT**

New Bedford Art Museum: In the Regions gallery show thru June 5, 2017

Museum of Fine Arts Boston: Annual Gallery Instructor Exhibition, April 2017

Gallery X New Bedford 2016 Shows: Off the Page; The Figure; Artist's Portrait/Self-Portrait

Marion Art Center: Solo Watercolor Exhibit: March/April 2015, reviewed/recognized by the Standard Times columnist Don Wilkinson as one of his "best of 2015".

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Marion Art Center: Intermediate Level Watercolor Instructor, since 2015

Wilbur Point Studio, Fairhaven: Private students in watercolor

NBAM Teenage Artist Intern Program, 2015, 2016, and 2017: Just completed a third year mentoring a South Coast area high school student artist

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston: Gallery Instructor since 2014

Art Teacher Gr. K-12: Milford and Bellingham, MA Public Schools, 17 yrs.

Westport Art Group: Occasional Guest Artist/Instructor for the group's weekly paint/critique sessions

**EDUCATION/AFFILIATIONS**

Marion Art Center: Board of Directors (2012-present)

Massachusetts College of Art: Studio Classes in Painting; MCA/Art New England Summer Intensive

Workshops: Lesley University, MEd "Creative Arts in Learning";

Framingham State University: BS/ED, Art Minor