

Jonathan Laidacker

Bio

In 2007, I received a master's degree in fine art with a concentration in painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Beginning in 2005, while still in graduate school, I began painting large-scale outdoor and indoor public art commissioned by Mural Arts Philadelphia. Since 2012, I have also received artist-in-residence commissions from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts to paint large-scale murals throughout the Commonwealth. I also have completed private commissions and studio work. My murals and other works are large-scale realistic or trompe l'oeil paintings that prominently feature figures and secondarily include still life and landscape elements.

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Artist's Statement

Art is an aspect of human culture that ought to be ubiquitous in our lives. Not just as an entity locked up in a gallery or museum. That's why I chose to make a career as a public artist. Each mural project is unique. It involves communication and collaboration with diverse groups of people. Whether designing a painting with students, in-mates, community members, or a corporation a mural composed of many different voices filtered through my own realist aesthetic is the final result.

Realist painting, more specifically 'trompe l'oeil' painting is a style that people have a visceral reaction to. My goal in designing and executing a mural with my collaborators is to produce a painting that blurs the line between what is real and what is a 2-dimensional surface. Over the years I've devised a process of production methods that allow me to involve volunteer painters with little to no painting experience in the creation of a trompe l'oeil mural. The ability to involve dozens, and sometimes hundreds, of people in the mural making process is what keeps my work feeling new even after nearly 2 decades.