

# KATE PROTAGE

## ABOUT

### The Work

#### *Urban Landscape Paintings/Drawings*

I have a love/hate relationship with the cities in which I've lived. Depending on the time of day, there are two worlds that exist in the same physical space: streets that appear gritty, dirty and depressing by day turn into an environment infused with a strange kind of lush, dark beauty and romance at night. These are the moments that remind me to take a breath, look closer, and recognize that there is still beauty in the world despite all of the chaos that surrounds us. Painting these moments is, in a strange way, my minor act of rebellion.

While my work is rooted in the real, it's the junction between sensation and fact that interests me. My paintings and drawings are meant to exist in that grey area between representation and abstraction, where light and solid form are given equal consideration and are almost interchangeable. The streets, the buildings, the sky, the cars – they're almost incidental as recognizable objects. It's the detail of an individual shape, an expressive brush stroke, and the way that everything coalesces into a series of value changes and textural rhythms that excites me. The moments may pass, but the feelings remain.

#### *"What I See"*

There's been a lot of discussion and debate about the human body lately. We've passionately argued over who gets to make decisions about it. We're bombarded with idealized, unrealistic images of how we should look that are meant to inspire, but can overwhelm and even anger us instead. The human body has been both honored and vilified.

Despite all of the hoopla, the fact is that the everyday things we see...basic parts, like the crook of an arm or the curve of a leg...can be beautiful.

These drawings remind me of a childhood song. "Head, shoulders, knees and toes..." Shapes, contours and edges that, when taken out of context, can become much more charged. But really they're just part of you and me. This is what I see.

### The Artist

I'm a wanderer. Growing up, my family and I lived in more than 18 different places of suburban sprawl. As an adult, I shifted toward more urban environments, but I've continued the same pattern of movement. Despite my best efforts, I've never traveled light—the hobo's stick from the fairytales is, in my case, a large moving van full of comfortable furniture, hundreds of shoes, kitchen tools that I never use, and boxes upon boxes of canvases.

No matter where I've been, painting has always been in my blood. When I was six, I made greeting cards for my family and friends. At nine, I painted a watercolor that my parents still have hanging in their home. I gravitated towards art throughout my education, and received a BA degree in Studio Art from Smith College, but soon after that I began a career in advertising and didn't pick up a brush for the next decade.

Over time, I found my way back to my passion. Thematic ideas and flashes of the perfect composition crept back into my head until the desire to paint again became so strong that I began taking classes and set up a studio in my dining room. After rebuilding my portfolio, I set off for New York where I got an MFA degree in Painting with academic distinction from Pratt Institute. But the West Coast was calling, so in 2006 I moved to Seattle and set up shop. I love it here, and plan to stay for a while.

I've regularly shown my work at galleries in Seattle, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Princeton and New York. Here in Seattle, I'm currently affiliated with the SAM Gallery.

CV

## EDUCATION

2003-2005 **Pratt Institute**, Brooklyn, NY, Master of Fine Arts degree in Painting with academic distinction

2001-2003 **Academy of Art College**, San Francisco, CA, Fine Art course credits

1986-1990 **Smith College**, Northampton, MA, Bachelor of Arts degrees in Art and English Literature

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 *What I See*, Core Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2011 *Push/Pull*, Core Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2010 *You Are Here*, La Familia Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2007 *Urban Eye*, Allen Sheppard Gallery, New York, NY
- 2005 *Convergence*, Steuben East Gallery, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

### Group Exhibitions

- 2012 *Digital Connections*, SAM Gallery, Seattle, WA
- Mine and Yours*, Twilight Artist Collective, Seattle, WA
- Look Up Here*, Bherd Studios Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2011 *619 @ 306*, Rock|DeMent Visual Art Space, Seattle, WA
- Featured artist, TASTE Restaurant @ SAM, Seattle, WA—curated by Barbara Shaiman (SAM Gallery)
- Formal Inquiry: the Sonata Undressed*, Velocity Studio, Seattle, WA—a special project with The Heroes
- (Sub)Urban*, Bherd Studios Gallery, Seattle, WA
- Core Sample*, Core Gallery, Seattle, WA
- 2010 Featured artist, Alexis Hotel, Seattle, WA—curated by Barbara Shaiman (SAM Gallery)
- Take 5*, Bherd Studios Gallery, Seattle, WA
- Urban*, Seattle Art Museum (SAM) Sales and Rental Gallery, Seattle, WA
- Art Monaco Salon d'Art Contemporain, Grimaldi Forum, Monaco
- Troy Gua and The Collaborati: Meet, Greet, Rinse, Repeat*, Monarch Contemporary, Seattle, WA
- 2009 Aqua Art Miami Contemporary Art Fair, Miami, FL
- Spring group exhibition, Allen Sheppard Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 Fall group exhibition, Allen Sheppard Gallery, New York, NY
- 2006 *Three Strong Women | Three Strong Visions*, Allen Sheppard Gallery, New York, NY
- The Art of the Heart: Work by Kate Protage and Chris Sheridan*, Qbix Art Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

- 2005 *Intersection: Paintings by Chris Sheridan and Kate Protage*, Framesmith Gallery, Princeton, NJ  
*Annual 2<sup>nd</sup> Year MFA Show*, Pratt Manhattan, New York, NY  
*Found Wanting*, Gallery MC, New York, NY (curated by Brynna Tucker)  
*Point of Departure*, 111 Main Street, Brooklyn, NY  
*Simulacrum*, Gallery 612, New York, NY
- 2004 *Art Salon*, Exxperimenta Art Space, New York, NY  
*Fall Show*, Steuben East Gallery/Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY  
*MFA's Colliding*, NYU, New York, NY
- 2003 Group show, Steuben East Gallery/Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY  
*Naturescapes*, 688 Sutter AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Academy of Art College Spring Show*, 79 New Montgomery AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Collective Unconscious*, 688 Sutter AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2002 *Beauty of Winter II*, 410 Bush AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Abstract Painting Show*, 625 Sutter and 688 Sutter AAC Galleries, San Francisco, CA  
*Recent Works of Kate Protage & David McDermott*, 625 Sutter AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Academy of Art College Spring Show*, 79 New Montgomery AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Studio 410*, 625 Sutter AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Recent Works of Kate Protage & Dana Spaeth*, Presidio Alliance, San Francisco, CA  
*Bay Area Collaborative Project: East Bay Meets West Bay*, June Steingart Gallery, Oakland, CA  
*Abstract Human Nature II*, 688 Sutter AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2001 *Beauty of Winter*, 410 Bush AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA  
*Abstract Human Nature*, 625 Sutter AAC Gallery, San Francisco, CA

## COMMISSIONS

- 2010 Painting for Link Apartments permanent collection, Seattle, WA  
 2003 *A Fresh Idea*, San Francisco Bench Project sponsored by ING

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2013 The Better Bombshell: Writers and artists redefine the female role model, pp. 15-25.  
[www.thebetterbombshell.com](http://www.thebetterbombshell.com)
- 2012 *Look Up Here: 5 Years of NW Urban & Contemporary Art (Volume 1)*, Bherd Studios Gallery, pp. 110-113
- 2008 *Solid Light*, 1/15 edition of The New York Observer: <http://www.observer.com/2008/funk-brother>
- 2006 *Q Magazine*, issue one of quarterly gallery magazine

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2010 Business Development Panel Member, Twilight Artist Collective  
 2010 Grant Selection Panel Member, Conductive Garboil Grant  
 2009-present Guest curator  
 2007- 2008 Board Member, ArtReach Seattle  
 2004-2005 Vice President of Pratt Artists' League