

Susan Cook



Susan Cook is an award winning contemporary realist oil painter living in Afton Minnesota. She was educated in art and art history at the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota taking a degree in Art History. Having drawn and painted from a young age, she desired to learn the techniques of the Old Masters. To that end she completed a four year program at The Atelier in Minneapolis (formerly Atelier Lack). After graduation she taught drawing, painting and color theory at The Atelier for several years and portrait painting at the Edina Art Center before opening her Afton Minnesota art studio to students. She has over the years continue her studies of still life with Jeffrey T. Larson, portraiture with Casey Baugh, and landscape with Marc Hanson.

Awards include Best in Show Awards from the White Bear Center for the Arts and the Hopkins Art Center, 2nd Place Award from the Plymouth Art Center (WI), numerous Awards of Excellence from White Bear, Judges Choice Awards from White Bear, FASO Fav 15, an online venue, and has been juried into an Associate Membership with the Oil Painters of America. Susan has also been invited to participate in numerous group shows in the Metro area and has had solo shows at the Hastings Art Center and at the Lakeview Hospital Gallery.

Whether painting still life, trompe l'oeil (fool the eye), portraiture in my studio or landscapes en plein air, Susan's work reflects her pursuit of beauty and a love of story. She paints primarily from life in natural light, applying Old Master and Impressionist techniques through a contemporary aesthetic of color and design resting upon the elegance of abstract underpinnings. Drawing upon the natural world and modern domestic living for both content and inspiration, her work explores the subtle intrigue of ordinary things uncovered by the artist's eye. From found creatures to found objects, Susan's paintings convey the beauty in the stuff of everyday life.