

GREENING

Carl Bretzke 2019



Carl Bretzke (b. 1954, Minnesota) earned his spot in the Grenning Gallery roster with his original, yet refined interpretation of real American life. Classically trained, and driven to paint directly from nature, Bretzke's images capture the subtle emotions roiling within each scene. Cinematic yet gritty, some have likened his work to that of Edward Hopper for putting his finger on that somewhat melancholic feeling found in celebrated American realism. Although Bretzke has had a long history as a highly decorated plein-air painter, this is his first solo show at the Grenning Gallery, firmly lodging him in our stable of core artists.

Bretzke's paintings successfully capture iconic American subjects, as seen in the mystifying "Exxon, Ford", depicting the glowing lights of Sag Harbor's old Main Street gas station at night. Not unlike Grant Wood, Bretzke captures a lonely street light on a quiet evening in "Street Light at Dusk". Painted at a very storied corner of Sag Harbor, on Church Street, few know that this painting records the site of a 1777 Revolutionary War raid.

This year's cover painting, "Off-Season Beach Parking" deftly captures the recognizable twilight of the East End, set within the parking lot at Long Beach, which shows Bretzke's originality. Most every other painter would turn their eyes towards the show stopping sunset. He, however, is drawn to paint the headlights of a single car heading towards him, reflecting off of the puddle in the parking lot. Bretzke's images are unforgettable due to their sincere and unexpected response to what is actually happening, while capturing the wonders of light, both natural and man-made.

Although Bretzke paints mostly from across the road, the field, or the valley, on occasion his work is punctuated by intimate interiors with his friends and fellow painters. In "Painter Friend and Friends" he captures the Grenning Gallery artist Ben Fenske at home with his girlfriend and dog. In "Bob's Hot Turkey Sandwich", we come face to face with the diner version of a Thanksgiving meal. Bretzke escalates this level of intimacy by placing the viewer at the table, seated across from the subject, Bob, ready to eat, fork and knife in hand.

Finally, it's important to note that Bretzke has been an award winning plein-air painter for years while practicing medicine full time. Only 3 years ago, he decided to turn to painting full time, and we have seen his body of work get richer, deeper in emotional content, and now larger in scale. We are not the only ones who have noticed. Mark Jenkins, of The Washington Post (Feb 20, 2015), once described Bretzke's work as "simultaneously intimate and detached...with a style that recalls Edward Hopper and the Ashcan School."

-Laura Grenning, 2019

Press

2018 | Dan's Papers, Cover image and feature article; Outdoor Painter feature article "A Winning Work, Painted through Cold Temps and Changing Light; Artists on Art Magazine Cover and feature article "Carl Bretzke: Night Owl: Painting the Nocturne"; **2017** | Outdoor Painter Plein Air Podcast: Episode 51 - Carl Bretzke's Transformation; Artfoodhome.com Featured Artist. **2016** | Fine Art Connoisseur Plein Air Magazine; "Carl Brezke Won the PleinAir Salon \$15,000 Grand Prize at the Plein Air Convention and Expo ; A Joyful Sense of Urgency - Fine Art Connoisseur; **2010** | Fine Art Connoisseur Emerging Artist Award

Recent Exhibitions

2019 | Grenning Gallery, Solo Show, Sag Harbor; **2018** | Grenning Gallery, 2 Person Show; Art to the Rescue, Group Show Parker, Colorado; **2017** | Grenning Gallery, 2 Person Show and Gems Show; Flanders Gallery, Minneapolis Minnesota; Susan Calloway Fine Arts, Solo Show, Washington DC.; **2016** | Grenning Gallery Russian American Painting Alliance Show and 3 Person Show; LPAPA Signature Impressions Group Show, Huntington Beach, California; Flanders Gallery, 3 Person Show; Settlers West Gallery Summer Show and Miniatures Show, Tucson, Arizona; **2015** | California Impressionism 2015, Group Show, Huntington Beach, California; Susan Calloway Fine Arts, Solo Show; **2014** | Flanders Gallery, 2 Person Show; **2009-2014** | Traffic Zone, Open Studio Show, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Recent Awards

2019 | Lighthouse Plein Air- 1st Place; 2019 Plein Air Salon - Honorable Mention (HM); Maui Plein Air Invitational - Best Body of Work; **2018** | Plein Air Salon Oct/Nov - Best Nocturne and 2nd Place; Grand Marais Plein Air - Best of Show; Door County Plein Air - HM; May Bold Brush Painting Competition - Best of Show; Carmel Art Festival - 2nd Place and HM; Plein Air Salon - HM; Lighthouse Plein Air - HM; **2017** | Oct/Nov Plein Air Salon - Best Oil; PleinAir Texas 2017 - 2nd Place; Grand Marais Plein Air - 3rd Place; Grand Marais Plein Air Red Suspender Contest - 1st Place; Carmel Art Festival - FAC Award of Excellence; Maui Plein Air 2017 - Collector's Choice; Lighthouse Plein Air - HM; **2016** | Plein Air Salon - Grand Prize Winner; Grand Marais Plein Air - Best of Show; Door County Plein Air - Best of Show; Carmel Art Festival 2016 -Plein Air Magazine Award Of Excellence -1st Place Quick Paint; Oil Painters of America - Associate Member; Lighthouse Plein Air, Tequesta, Florida - 1st Place; **2015** | Grand Marais Plein Air 2015 - 1st Place Quick Paint, 1st Place Red Suspenders Contest; Telluride Plein Air - 1st Place; Carmel Art Festival - Artist's Choice 2nd Place, Fine Art Connoisseur Magazine Award; PleinAir Salon Feb/March 2015 edition - Best Oil; Lighthouse Plein Air 2015 in Jupiter, Florida - 1st Place in Quick Paint category; **2014** | Aspen Plein Air - 1st Place; Plein Air Salon April/May 2014 Edition - 1st Place; Laguna Plein Air Painters Association (LAPAPA) Signature Member; **2014/13/12/11/10** | Carmel Art Festival Plein Air Competition: Juried Artist HM. 2014/2011; **2013** | Laguna Plein Air Invitational: The Plein Air Magazine Sponsor Award; Plein Air Grand Marais: 1st Place overall. 1st Place Nocturne Category; Plein Air Salon Oct/Nov Edition - 1st Place **2013/2012/2011** | Groveland Gallery Plein Air Summer Event: Guest Artist; Plein Air Salon Oct/Nov Edition - 1st Place

GRENNING | GALLERY

“Flatbed Nocturne”
8 x 10 inches | Oil on panel | 2017



“City Billboard”
16 x 20 inches | Oil on panel | 2019



“Off-Season Beach Parking”
24x40 inches | Oil on canvas | 2019

“Harbor Evening Clouds”
12 x 16 inches | Oil on panel | 2019



“Tracks on River Ice”
22 x 40 inches | Oil | 2019



"Exxon Ford"
18 x 24 inches | Oil on linen | 2017



“Parked Minivan in Winter”
16 x 20 inches | Oil on panel | 2019



"Remnants of Winter"
24 x 36 inches | Oil on canvas | 2019



"Dying to Stay in Maui"
12 x 16 inches | Oil on panel | 2019

"Looking for Shade"
14 x 18 inches | Oil on linen | 2019





"Hampton Last Light"
24 x 36 inches | Oil on linen | 2019

“Bridget Smokes”
12 x 16 inches | Oil on panel | 2019



“Good Day in December”
12 x 16 inches | Oil on panel | 2018



“Street Light at Dusk”
18 x 24 inches | Oil on linen | 2019



“South Beach Illumination”
11 x 14 inches | Oil on panel | 2019

“Main Beach After Dark”
16 x 20 inches | Oil on linen | 2019





"Metro Supper Club"
20 x 28 inches | Oil on linen | 2019



“Backwoods Cabin and Chair”
11 x 14 inches | Oil on panel | 2019

“Perched”
12 x 16 inches | Oil on panel | 2019





"Night Factory"
24 x 36 inches | Oil on linen | 2017

“Cold Night in the Parking Booth”
12 x 16 inches | Oil on panel | 2019



“Harbor Truck II”
16 x 20 inches | Oil on linen | 2019



“North”

24 x 36 inches | Oil on linen | 2017



“Painter Friend and Friends”
22 x 28 inches | Oil on canvas | 2017

“Bob’s Hot Turkey Sandwich”
20 x 24 inches | Oil on canvas | 2017





“Amagansett Dunes”
24 x 36 inches | Oil on linen | 2019

“Shasta at Night”
11 x 14 inches | Oil on panel | 2018



“Over Phoenix”
12 x 16 inches | Oil on panel | 2019



“The Last Show”

24 x 36 inches | Oil on linen | 2018

Limited Edition Prints Available



“Beach Town”

10 x 20 inches | Oil on panel | 2019



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