

MARIUS STARKEY

SAN FRANCISCO · PAINTER · ARTISTMARIUS.COM

Artist Statement

"For me, true transcendence of life occurs while I paint. Through the richness of color, shape, and form, a painting becomes a vehicle for something spiritual. The act of painting is almost like going to a therapist, exploring new thoughts and ideas — there is no time, no fear, and no expectations when I work, only the chance to understand my deep emotional and physical connections."

"I threw myself into my own paintings with a fury and explored my own ways to paint that pushed me into different realms of visions. I am as excited and thrilled today about painting as I was when I first started — when I immerse myself into the next painting, I am always surprised by the results of my own work."

"This part of my life will continue unabated until I can no longer lift a brush. I am smitten and committed to the work."

Biography

Marius Starkey is a painter based in San Francisco, working from a studio at the Hunters Point Shipyard — home to the largest concentration of working artists in the country. Born in Sterling, Kansas, he earned a BA in painting from Baker University and a Master's degree from Croydon College of Art in London before settling in San Francisco in 1989, where he has painted ever since.

His work — bold, color-driven oil paintings, watercolors, pastels, and monotypes — spans landscape, ocean, and figurative subjects, exhibited for four decades across Northern California and internationally, from Osaka and Tokyo to London, Cologne, and Paris. His paintings are held in institutional and corporate collections including San Francisco International Airport, the Mexican Museum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and the Spencer Museum of Art.

Starkey is also a public artist: he painted the mural at the Salesforce Transbay Terminal, created one of the sculptural hearts for SF General Hospital Foundation's Heroes and Hearts, and contributed to Paint the Void, the 2020 initiative that turned boarded-up San Francisco storefronts into public art. He has given live painting demonstrations at the de Young Museum and the Legion of Honor, and spoken about his work at UCSF.

Education

- MFA, Printmaking — Croydon College of Art, Croydon, England
- BA, Painting — Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas

Solo Exhibitions

- Bolinas Gallery, Bolinas, CA (2019, 2018)
- Golden Gate Sotheby's International Realty, Oakland, CA (2018)
- Urban Hardwoods, San Francisco, CA (2017, 2016)
- Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco, CA — special events (2017, 2013)
- Triton Hotel, San Francisco, CA (2017)
- UCSF Gallery 190, San Francisco, CA (2015)
- San Francisco City Hall, Office of Supervisor Scott Wiener (2014)
- Sanyok Gallery, Sausalito, CA (2013)
- de Young Museum, San Francisco, CA — special events (2015–2010)
- Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco, CA (2011–2010)
- Orchard Hotel, San Francisco, CA (2011–2009)
- Art Work Gallery, San Francisco, CA (2008–2006)
- Engine Gallery, Toronto, Canada (2005)
- Café Claude, San Francisco, CA (2004)
- Paxton McCall Gallery, Santa Fe, NM (2003)
- Vorpai Gallery, San Francisco, CA (2002, 1999, 1998)
- Katherine Finn Gallery, Tiburon, CA (2002)
- Circle Gallery, Carmel, CA (2001–2000)
- Gallery Z, San Francisco, CA (2001–2000)
- Commonwealth Club Gallery, San Francisco, CA (1999, 1996)
- Kiabundo Gallery, Kobe City, Japan (1997, 1994, 1991)
- Gallery Choko, Tokyo, Japan (1995)
- Osaka Contemporary Art Center, Osaka, Japan (1991, 1989)
- Joy Horwich Gallery, Chicago, IL (1990)

Private & Institutional Collections

- LC McKenna, New York, NY
- Visa Corporation
- San Francisco International Airport, Terminal 2
- The Mexican Museum
- Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Spencer Museum of Art
- Hallmark Corporation
- Sprint World Headquarters
- 21st Century Insurance Corp.

Awards & Grants

- Yosemite Renaissance 38 — Best of Show, traveling exhibition (Hanford, Turlock, Yosemite Valley, Madera, CA) (2023–2024)
- Yosemite Renaissance 37 — traveling exhibition (2022–2023)
- Marin County Society of Artists — Honorable Mention (2023)
- 63rd Annual Member Exhibition, Art Guild of Pacifica (2021)
- Heroes and Hearts, SF General Hospital Foundation — selected artist (2016–2017)
- Animal Art, New York Magazine — recognition (2005)
- Helene Wurlitzer Foundation Grant, Taos, NM (2002)
- San Francisco–Osaka Sister City Artist Delegate (1997)
- de Young Museum — NEA Artist in Residency (1989)
- Purchase Award & Best of Show, "Art in the Woods," Kansas (1987)

Juried Exhibitions

- ARTBOXY, Cologne, Germany (2024–2025)
- Artio Gallery, New York, NY (2024–2025)
- ARTBOXY, Paris, France (2024–2025)
- Animal Magazine exhibition, Chelsea Market, New York, NY (2005)
- Alameda Arts Center, Alameda, CA (2004)
- San Bernardino Museum National Show, San Bernardino, CA (2001)
- NUAL 12th Annual, Redding, CA (1996)
- Museum of the Hudson Highlands, NY (1988)
- Nelson-Atkins Mid-Four Exhibitions, Kansas City, MO (1985)

Group Exhibitions

- Sanchez Art Center member shows, Pacifica, CA (2022–2025)
- Perspective Show (2021)
- 62nd Annual Members Show (2020)
- Office of Senator Scott Wiener, San Francisco, CA (2019)
- Sanyok Gallery, Sausalito, CA (2013)
- The Mexican Museum, San Francisco, CA / Baker University, Baldwin City, KS (2005)
- Vorpall Gallery, San Francisco, CA (2001)
- McKesson Corporation HQ (1994)
- Lake Onzui Wako Museum, Japan (1992)
- Kansas City Museum Heritage Show (1985)