

REX PRESCOTT WALDEN

Rex Prescott Walden is an American assemblage artist and painter. Educated at the University of Denver and Wesleyan University, Walden's neat, architectural work is defined by precision and intention, influenced by a Formalist view.

Unexpected Juxtaposition explores the artist's philosophy surrounding the creation of art. To him, art is a series of highs and lows-- emotionally, physically, and creatively. The high is something that is searched for and chased after, as it enables the painter to continue to do his work regardless of material success or reinforcement. The lows come at those moments of introspection and doubt, challenging the artist to create something that is new and different and ready for the world. As Walden describes it, "There is nothing more beautiful, or frightening, than the minimal perfection of a white canvas. Each mark one makes are a risk... The elusive-- and sometimes forgiving-- attributes of any medium coax me to continue. Keeping paint friendly is my goal, as I know it can turn on me at any moment."

To further articulate this ebb and flow of creation, Walden's work collages together items that represent both a literal and spiritual journey. By applying navigational charts in his pieces, he guides the viewer on a voyage across abstract landscapes. To understand the intended destination, one must look for a reference to a place or a degree of longitude and latitude within the plane of the artwork. Allusions to measurement help to mark the steps of the voyage, while found objects evoke memories of past experience. Throughout the collection, there is a tension between texture and design. The use of repeated forms help to provide a sense of rhythm in the work, to move the eye across the composition.

The most obvious measure of influence in Walden's work is the sea. Through charts, instruments, color and form, it is an ever-present player in his narrative, at once vocal and silent. The sea's ever-changing and arcane nature, along with its inherent strength and calm, are essential to the artist's use of abstraction. It is intentional, therefore, that the viewer encounter each work in new ways at every viewing, keeping the work constantly changing and alive.

Rex Prescott Walden currently lives and works in Guilford, CT. For twenty years, he was an instructor in the Fine Arts department at Valley Regional High School in Deep River, CT. During that time, he was awarded a Fulbright Grant to teach art in Salford, England. Walden was also a fellow at the Maine College of Art in Portland, ME. The artist has exhibited extensively, and has work that hangs in the permanent collections of The New Haven Paint and Clay, the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, the Smilow Cancer Center at Yale New Haven Hospital, the Lankenau Medical Center of Philadelphia, and the Emerson Resort and Spa in New York.

EDUCATION

1993 M.A.L.S., Wesleyan University
1997 M.S., Southern Connecticut University
1971 Teaching Certification, University of Denver
1970 B.F.A., University of Denver

GRANTS

1998 Fellowship, Maine College of Art, Drawing
and Computer Graphics, Portland, Maine
1991-1992 Fulbright Teacher Exchange, Our Lady
of Mount Carmel R.C. School, Art Instructor,
Salford, England

EMPLOYMENT

2002-Present Artist/Painter, Joshua Point Studio
1973-2002 Valley Regional High School, Essex,
Deep River and Chester, CT
1982-2001 Secondary School Art Instructor, Fine
Arts Department Chairman

SELECTED RECENT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

“Unexpected Juxtaposition,” Fernando Luis Alvarez
Gallery, Stamford, CT
“Rex Prescott Walden,” Smilow Cancer Center, Yale
New Haven Hospital, New Haven, CT
“To Italy,” Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery, Stamford,
CT
“Mixed Journeys,” Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery,
Stamford, CT

SELECTED PAST EXHIBITIONS

Albertus Magnus College, New Haven CT
Art Palm Beach, Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery,
West Palm Beach, FL
Arts New England, Guilford, CT
Branford Artist’s Cooperative, Branford, CT
Bruce Museum Arts Festival, Greenwich CT

Chester Gallery, Chester CT
Citywide Open Studio Exhibition, New Haven CT
Creative Arts Workshop, New Haven CT
CT State Capitol Building, Hartford CT
Discovery Museum, Bridgeport CT
Essex Art Gallery, Essex CT
Flinn Gallery, Greenwich CT
Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery, Stamford, CT
Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme CT
Greene Art Gallery, Guilford CT
Hull’s Gallery, New Haven, CT
John Slade Ely House Invitational, New Haven CT
Keyes Gallery, Stony Creek CT
Bruce S. Kershner Gallery, Fairfield, CT
Maritime Gallery, Mystic CT
Mill Gallery, Guilford CT
New Haven Paint and Clay, New Haven CT
Pfizer Corporation Invitational, Groton CT
SoNo Arts Celebration, South Norwalk CT
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven CT
Wall Street Gallery, Madison CT
Westport Arts Festival, Westport, CT
Yale Divinity Center, New Haven CT
Zilkha Gallery, Wesleyan University, Middletown CT

PERMANENT COLLECTION

Smilow Cancer Center, Yale University
Florence Griswold Museum
New Haven Paint and Clay

AWARDS

NEW HAVEN PAINT AND CLAY, NEW HAVEN, CT
2009 Sidney and Arthur Eder Foundation Award for
Painting
2008 E.L. Greeley Award for Painting
ARTS CONNECTICUT, GUILFORD ART CENTER
GALLERY, GUILFORD, CT
2007 Best in Show

2006 Third Place, Painting

BRUCE MUSEUM ARTS FESTIVAL, GREENWICH, CT

2007 Third Place, Mixed Media

2006 Third Place, Mixed Media

ESSEX ART ASSOCIATION, ESSEX, CT

2008 Painting Award , Elected Member's Show

2005 Best in Show, Spring Juried Competition

2005 Second Place, Members Exhibition

2004 Best in Show, Spring Juried Competition

2003 Best Abstract, Spring Juried Competition

KEYES GALLERY, STONY CREEK, CT

2008 Second Place, Annual Stony Creek Exhibition

2007 Honorable Mention Award, Annual Stony
Creek Exhibition

2006 Sculpture Award, Annual Stony Creek
Exhibition

2005 Third Place, Annual Stony Creek Exhibition

2004 Mixed Media Award, Annual Stony Creek
Exhibition

SONO ARTS CELEBRATION, SOUTH NORWALK, CT

2005 Best of Show, All Media

2004 Second Place, Fine Arts

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Wesleyan University Center for Creative Youth

Woodbridge Board of Education

Hamden Art League

New Haven Paint and Clay