

John Maxon

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ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

Painting, a suspension of time, both in the act and in the viewing.
A way to share my connection to my world.
It is, after all, a gift always present, not given, certainly gratefully received.

BORN:

Greybull, Wyoming

EDUCATION:

San Francisco Art Institute
B.A., Painting, San Jose State University
M.F.A., Painting, University of California, Davis
Cabrillo College, Aptos, California (Postgraduate)
Stanford University, Palo Alto, California (Postgraduate)

SELECTED COLLECTIONS:

Sonoma Mission Inn - Sonoma, California
California Cafés: Napa Valley Grill - Napa Valley, California
Domaine Napa - Napa, California
Inn at Spanish Bay - Pebble Beach, California
Cabana Hotel - Palo Alto, California
Ritz-Carlton Hotel - Half Moon Bay, California
Vesti Corporation – Boston, Massachusetts
Dysan Corporation – San Jose, California
Dean Witter Reynolds – San Francisco, California
Mobil Oil
American Bell
Hotel Meridian – San Francisco, California
Arcon Pacific – San Francisco, California
American Tel & Tel
Apple Computer – Cupertino, California
Lockheed – California
Marriott Hotels – Rochester, New York; Palm Desert, California; Daytona, Florida
Vertech Westminster – San Jose, California
Pacific Gas and Electric – San Francisco, California
Toyota – Newport Beach, California
Ohio Standard Oil – Houston, Texas
Radisson Hotel – Denver, Colorado
Hitachi America Ltd.
Holiday Inn's Crowne Plaza – Los Angeles, California
U.S. West Centennial Airport – Denver, Colorado
University of California – Berkeley, California

Shearson-Lehman – San Francisco, California
 Smith Barney – New York
 Arco Standard – Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
 Shering Corporation – Kenilworth, New Jersey
 Unisys – Pennsylvania
 University of California – Davis, California
 Hewlett-Packard – Palo Alto, California
 Murdock Magazines – Secaucus, New Jersey
 Hilton Hotel – San Francisco and Monterey, California
 Koll Corporation – California
 Transamerica – San Francisco, California
 Digital – San Jose, California
 Delta Airlines – Boston, Massachusetts
 Squibb – Princeton, New Jersey
 Northern Telecom – Sacramento, California
 Merrill Lynch – California; Virginia; Alabama; New Jersey
 Hyatt Regency – Chicago, Illinois
 Miranda Associates – Palo Alto, California
 American Café – Concord, California
 John Hancock Real Estate Finance, Inc. – Walnut Creek, California
 Texel Corporation – Fairfax, Virginia
 Hitachi Data Systems – Santa Clara, California
 Catholic Healthcare West – San Francisco, California
 MCI – Denver, Colorado
 Texaco – New York
 Amco – New York
 San Francisco Tennis Club – San Francisco, California
 Nikor – California
 Merck, Inc. – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 San Jose Sharks – San Jose, California
 Tencor Instruments – Milpitas, California
 Marix Pharmaceuticals – Fremont, California
 Kaiser Permanente – San Diego, California
 Tandem Computer – Santa Clara, California
 John Muir Hospital – Walnut, Creek, California
 Aston-Tate – Denver, Colorado
 Mills Peninsula Hospital – San Mateo, California
 Symmetri Corporation – San Jose, California

SELECTED SOLO AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

1997	I. Wolk Gallery – St. Helena, California	Group
1997	Napa Valley Wine Auction – St. Helena, California	Group
1997	West Coast Painting and Sculpture – Ocean Side, California	Group
1997	Stanford University Faculty Club – Stanford, California	Solo
1998	Mary Bell Gallery – Chicago, Illinois	Group
1999	I. Wolk Gallery - St. Helena, California	Group

2000	Napa Valley Art Museum – Yountville, California	Group
2000	Caldwell Snyder Gallery – California	Group
2001	St. Supery Winery & Fine Art Gallery	Group
2001	Robert Allen Fine Art Gallery	Solo
2002-2004		
	Ellis West Gallery – Durango, Colorado	Solo
2004	Giacobbe Fritz Gallery – Santa Fe, New Mexico	Group
2005	Fort Lewis College – Durango, Colorado	Group
2005	Robert Allen Fine Art Gallery – Sausalito, California	Solo
2006	Chris Hill Gallery – St. Helena, California	Group
2006-2008		
	Linda Durnell Gallery – Los Gatos, California	Solo
2008	Cabrillo College – Aptos, California	Group
2009	Robert Allen Fine Art – Sausalito, California	Solo
2009	Museum Art and History – Santa Cruz, California	Group
2010	Susan Street Gallery – Solano Beach, California	Group

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS:

Santa Cruz County Art Museum – Santa Cruz, California
University of California, Davis Art Museum – Davis, California
Napa Valley Art Museum – Yountville, California
Mission College Art Foundation – Cupertino, California

PROFESSIONAL:

University of California, Davis – Davis, California
Mt. Madonna Center for Creative Arts & Sciences – Watsonville, California
Hartnell Junior College – Salinas, California
Pacific Union College – Angwin, Napa Valley, California
Fort Lewis College – Durango, Colorado
Cabrillo College – Aptos, California

VISITING ARTIST/LECTURER:

San Jose State University – San Jose, California
Hartnell Junior College – Salinas, California
University of California – Santa Cruz, California
Mt. Madonna Center for Creative Arts & Sciences – Watsonville, California
Pacific Union College – Angwin, Napa Valley, California
Fort Lewis College – Durango, Colorado
Cabrillo College – Aptos, California

Vibrant colors, dynamic composition, and powerful expression go hand-in-hand with imagination and expert craftsmanship to create works of depth and dimension, which are both intriguing and inspirational to the viewer. The color combinations are subtle, unusual, resounding. The hues are painted at a heightened level. To John, his effortless decision of which color to use is how he witnesses and describes the world. Intuitively and with obvious liberties, his experimentation with color combinations evoke an emotional response, and it is this feeling that he captures for himself while painting and ultimately for his viewers. The color relationships are peaceful, restful, and yet exciting – an offering of an awakening to the spirit of life.

Coming from a very western tradition in Wyoming, John Maxon developed an expansive view of nature and the spiritual essence it imbued. Moving eventually to the San Francisco Bay area, John's delight in the effects of light and color led him to the decision to become an artist at the young age of 15. His natural ability was encouraged, and at 16 he began figurative art classes with Howard Brodie, the artist well known for his WWII correspondence, drawings and the Watergate trial drawings.

Maxon spent his youthful days painting seriously in the fields behind Stanford University, and was fortunate to be exposed to and to study the works of Nathan Oliviera, Wayne Thiebaud and David Park during those years. He attended San Jose State University, and apprenticed for Sam Richardson and John Battenberg, primarily learning sculpture techniques. It was here that he first witnessed the actual workings of the art world. These great artists, the school of painting, and the movement that was happening in the San Francisco Bay area during the late 60s and early 70s were strong influences to John, and his work began to reflect the style and perceptions of his period.

With Roy DeForest, William T. Wiley, and Wayne Thiebaud in graduate school at the University of California, Davis, explored many variations of techniques and styles. The exposure to these highly successful, professional, famous artists of that period gave John a stronger awareness of the degree of dedication and strength required to make painting a career. It was during this time that John knew that his sole profession would be as an artist, as aside from teaching art occasionally, this has remained true.

The following eight years were spent perfecting his techniques and founding Mount Madonna Center for Creative Arts & Sciences, a successful alternative private school in the mountains above Santa Cruz, California. He exhibited in the Bay Area sporadically, but it was not until the early 80s that he began to show his work on a much more serious and wider format. Capturing the eye of many well known corporate and private collectors, his abstract landscapes conveyed a sense of spirit, offering a unique perspective on the patterns and contours of the Earth. His manner is free-flowing, and this is reflected in his paintings.

A brief move to Santa Fe, New Mexico in the early 90s expanded John's vision and palette once again. The influence of the dramatic light, shapes, and other local artists enabled him to put together a body of work that resonated the spectacular essence of this territory. Carrying this inspiration back to California, John began to explore the beauty of the landscape and its relationship to figures interacting within it. Settling in the heart of the Napa Valley for four years, John continued to experiment with the naturalness of man and woman working within their surroundings as well as the cultivated beauty of that area.

Recalling the knowledge that he had derived from his apprenticeships, he took this exploration into the medium of bronze sculpture. His pieces are "filled with movement, intensity, vitality, and depth. "I found that sculpture for me is not at all a departure from

painting. The process that is used to create sculpture is the same as it is in painting – minus the color. Often my work progresses from drawing, into painting, into sculpture. At each stage, I learn something that is helpful for the next stage,” Maxon has stated.

The variation of composition in his extraordinary works demonstrate s his ability to handle all forms of medium. “Paint the struggle. Paint the joy. Above all, paint the Truth.” John strives to represent these human inevitabilities through his art. It is his desire to attempt to paint the great beauty that is around us always and to share his own personal joy in the expression of color. The themes of landscapes, and people and animals within the landscape are simply an homage, and effort to create an awareness of the process that is involved in the joy of living. “As the days progress, I certainly feel very blessed and inspired.” It is this inspiration, which he shares with us, that has made John Maxon such a unique and successful artist.

John is currently an adjunct professor of art at Cabrillo College in Aptos, California, where he continues his painting career.