
12-2007

Photorealist Oil Paintings

Steve Mills

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Recommended Citation

Mills, Steve (2007). Photorealist Oil Paintings. *Bridgewater Review*, 26(2), inside front/back covers.
Available at: https://vc.bridgew.edu/br_rev/vol26/iss2/3

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Steve Mills
Photorealist Oil Painter



Clear Through. 32 x 40". Oil on linen, 2007.



Born March 28, 1959 in Boston, MA, Steve Mills was raised as a child on Martha's Vineyard, MA, his family moved to Walpole, MA as a young teen though he has continued to summer on Martha's Vineyard.

Every child drew when young, though Mills requested a pencil over crayons to get better detail. This fascination with detail became his calling card. He sold his first drawing at the age of 11 and has been selling ever since. He even helped pay for his college degree by drawing yachts as a summer job on the docks of Menemsha on Martha's Vineyard. Having never taken an art class in high school, and raised more as a musician than a visual artist, of all things he started college as a meteorology major. Things did not work well for him in this regard and after a year working in a factory, he started taking classes again at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts. He became an art major and embraced the art program, finally realizing his talent through his painting professor, William Kendall, graduating magna cum laude, and receiving his BA in Art in 1982.

His first solo show in 1983, just a year out of college, was a smashing success selling 33 of 35 originals at the Granary Gallery on Martha's Vineyard. This started his journey on a successful career, including gallery affiliation with Gallery Henoch in 1989 in New York City. Between the 2 galleries, Mills has sold almost every piece he has ever painted. Producing and selling 500 oil paintings in his first 20 years has collectors literally waiting in line outside the gallery before a gallery opening—creating a frenzy, which resulted in one show selling in 10 minutes. Some of his originals have sold for over \$70,000.

With the time it takes to paint in the photorealist technique—some paintings taking over 400 hours—it has proven difficult to do more than one gallery opening a year.

Living in Florida since graduating college, the proverbial bachelor finally married in 2001. Choosing from a select group of originals, his wife Leigh and he developed a small print business and are now marketing his work nationally.