



MARC HANSON AND FRANK GARDNER: PAINTER-COMRADES ON THE CAPE

On Cape Cod, Addison Art Gallery is set to exhibit new works by a pair of superb painters, Marc R. Hanson and Frank Gardner, who are also good friends. Scheduled for July 22–August 31 (the Cape’s busiest season), their show will feature pictures made primarily in the studio, along with some studies created outdoors.

Marc R. Hanson (b. 1955) was born in California, but his family moved often because his father served in the U.S. Air Force. They ultimately returned to California, which partly explains why Hanson studied illustration at Pasadena’s Art Center College of Design. He conducted a long and successful career in illustration before turning to fine art full-time, and has lived primarily in Minnesota with subsequent stints in Colorado and (currently) Mississippi.

“Along the way,” Hanson explains, “my methods, materials, and focus have evolved. I am a naturalist at heart, so landscape is



FRANK GARDNER (b. 1963), *View to the Water*, 2017, oil on canvas, 24 x 24 in.

the perfect vehicle for expressing the joy I feel for the world that surrounds me. I’m most successful when I’m able to communicate that joy to viewers, when I can manipulate the core principles of painting into effective visual statements.”

Born and raised in the Hudson Valley, Frank Gardner (b. 1963) earned his B.F.A. in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and relocated to Mexico in 1990. Today he lives in the arts-minded city of San Miguel de Allende but travels widely through North America seeking not only picturesque corners of nature, but also such modern motifs as steam locomotives and industrial machinery.

Gardner says he seeks to “share the beauty that I see every day by arranging bits of color and ideas to tell a story. A controlled chaos or loose spontaneity is my favored look, although each color and stroke is well thought out and carefully placed.” As he works, Gardner pays close attention to the “colors of fleeting light effects, and



MARC R. HANSON (b. 1955), *Jonathan*, 2017, acrylic on board, 16 x 16 in.

I also interpret and push color if it is useful to convey how the scene makes me feel.”

The two men have very different relationships with Cape Cod. Gardner says he has “been visiting the Cape since as early as I can remember, so these scenes have a special place in my heart and visual memory. My work for this show is a continuation of where I left off with the successful show Marc and I had at Addison last year: beach life, impressions and reflections of the piers and fishing boats of Provincetown, and some explorations of traditional Cape Cod architecture.”

Hanson notes, “Although Frank is very familiar with the Cape and New England, I’m like a fish out of water there. I feel honored that he’s willing to let this ‘west of the Mississippi’ artist paint this area and hang in the same room as him! What I have tried to do is to use my own sensibilities as a ‘wanderer’ to find an ‘outsider’s’ take, those visuals that I find unique to me, and to make creative connections from that point of view.”

Particularly striking in both men’s art is their fearless capacity to leave some passages undefined, to let viewers fill in some missing details. This instinct has been inherited from impressionism and also from modernists like Fairfield Porter and Edward Hopper, who arranged forms and color blocks strategically to help tell the story and set the mood. In their distinctive ways, Hanson and Gardner have taken these traditions forward, and we look forward to seeing where they go next.

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FRANK GARDNER (b. 1963), *Flamingo*, 2017, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in.
