

COLIN T. DARKE

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ARTIST BIO

Colin's latest work focuses on blending abstract cityscapes with renderings of realistic hummingbirds. This work is for a series of paintings titled "Hope against odds," where he explores his relationship (and optimism) for Detroit, Michigan. For this series, Mr. Darke has left his traditional medium of watercolor paints to use the more opaque gouache and acrylic paints. Overall, Colin's artwork focuses on strong contrasts to invoke immediate emotional responses while compelling viewers to consider his work more closely. He initially employs bold colors and abstract imagery to invoke certain visceral reactions to his pieces. Mr. Darke then renders more intricate details that provide an additional subtext to his pieces and allows a viewer a calming area to rest his or her eyes and contemplate the piece. The Detroit News described Colin's watercolor paintings as employing "a bold, colorful style reminiscent of the German Expressionists."

Colin was born in 1977 in Southfield, Michigan. He obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts, with an emphasis in watercolor painting, from Western Michigan University in 2001. During college, he participated in several group exhibitions, and his college experience culminated with a successful solo exhibition. After college, Colin continued to paint and exhibit his work, but he also pursued a legal career. Colin obtained his Juris Doctorate, *cum laude*, from Michigan State University College of Law in 2004, and he obtained an LL.M. from Boston University School of Law in 2008, where he received the A. John Serino Outstanding Graduate Banking Law Student Prize ("awarded to the student who displays outstanding overall performance, in terms of academic achievement and dedication to the highest standards of scholarship and service").

He works for the prestigious Detroit based law firm Bodman PLC where he is a member of the firm's Pro Bono Committee (he initiated and is in charge of his firm's Financial Literacy Project, which pairs attorneys with bank loan officer to present financial literacy materials to local high school students). He has also published several articles and given numerous presentations on a variety of legal subjects, including a presentation titled "Asset Securitization: What is it?" to the Legal Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

He is a regular contributor to the Detroit cultural blog thedetroiter.com. He is currently one of the inaugural mentors for Detroit Creative Corridor Center's Creative Ventures and he is a member of the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit's New Wave Board.

He was recently invited to participate in the Actual Size Biennial (Juror: Aaron Timlin), and he is preparing a solo exhibition and lecture at Michigan State University College of Law for the Fall of 2011. In 2010, Colin was juried into two highly competitive art competitions: (1) the 2010 *Michigan Fine Arts Competition* (Juror: Sondra Freckelton) at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center in Birmingham, Michigan, and (2) the *18th Annual National Juried Exhibition* (Juror: Rackstraw Downes (2009 MacArthur Fellow)) at the Bowery Gallery in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York, New York. The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center also invited Colin to participate in a two person show, and the LaFontsee Gallery selected Mr. Darke and his sister Kelly Darke to showcase their "Sibling Revelry" series of paintings at its gallery for the annual ArtPrize competition in Grand Rapids, Michigan.