

MICHAEL SHEETS

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Selected Solo and Group Shows

20 North Gallery / 20 North/30 Years / Toledo, Ohio / 2023
Skidmore Contemporary Art / Santa Monica, CA / 2021
Skidmore Contemporary Art / Santa Monica, CA / 2020
Skidmore Contemporary Art / Diner Still Lives / Santa Monica, CA / 2019
Skidmore Contemporary Art / Santa Monica, CA / 2018
20 North Gallery / Luminosity / Toledo, Ohio / 2017
The University of Michigan Medical Center / Gifts of Art / Ann Arbor, Michigan / 2015
Toledo Museum of Art / TAA Curated Regional Exhibition / 2014
Art Renewal Center / International ARC Salon / 2010-2011, 2013-2014 / 2021 / 2022
20 North Gallery / 20 Seasons, 20 Artists / Toledo, Ohio / 2012
Fort Wayne Museum of Art / Biennial: Contemporary American Realism / 2006, 2008, 2012
Robert Kidd Gallery / Realism / Birmingham, MI / 2006
Anne Loucks Gallery / Still Life: Contemporary Visions / Glencoe, IL / 2004
Robert Kidd Gallery / New Realism II / Birmingham, MI / 2004
The University of Toledo, Center for the Visual Arts / Toledo, Ohio / 2003
WWP The Parker Gallery / Annual Group Show / Washington D. C. / 2002-2003
20 North Gallery / 10th Year Exhibition / Toledo, Ohio / 2003
Finer Things Gallery / Nashville, Tennessee / 2001, 2003
The Mansfield Art Center / Beyond Trompe L'Oeil / Mansfield, Ohio / 2000
Mickelson Gallery / Annual Group Show / Washington D. C. / 1988-99
Robert Kidd Gallery / National Horse Show / Birmingham, MI / 1997
Rodger LaPelle Galleries / USArtists / Philadelphia / 1994, 1997
Robert Kidd Gallery / Twentieth Anniversary Exhibition / Birmingham, MI / 1996
StricoffFine Art / Miami Art Exposition / New York / 1995
The Mansfield Art Center / Architectural Details / Mansfield, Ohio / 1994
20 North Gallery / Toledo, Ohio / 1993
Kauffman Galleries / Houston, Texas / 1989, 1992
The Button Galleries / Saugatuck, Michigan / 1987, 1988, 1990, 1993
Fay Gold Gallery / Still Objective Paintings / Atlanta, Georgia / 1989
Monroe County Community College / Monroe, Michigan / 1989
O. K. Harris South / New York Artists / Miami, Florida / 1988
Helander Gallery / New Work / Palm Beach, Florida / 1986
Robert Kidd Gallery / New Realism / Birmingham, Michigan / 1985
Name Gallery / The Shadow / Chicago, Illinois / 1985
Cudahy's Gallery / Richmond, Virginia / 1985

Selected Juried Exhibitions

Butler Institute of American Art / Mid Year Exhibition / 1980-84, 1987, 1997, 2001-05, 2007
Ohio Exposition Commission/ Fine Arts Exhibition / 1983-9, 1992, 2001, 05, 07, 09, 11, 2016-17
Chautauqua National Exhibition / Annual Exhibition / 1984, 2005
Washington & Jefferson College / National Painting Show / 1995, 1997, 2001-02

Carnegie Institute / Three Rivers Festival / 1984, 1990, 2002
Toledo Museum of Art/Area Artists Exhibition/1978-88, 90, 95, 96, 98-2000, 2004-6,2008-9, 11
Erie Art Museum / Annual Spring Show / 1985, 1996
Canton Art Institute / All Ohio / 1983-86, 1990
Hoyt Institute of Art / National Painting Show / 1982, 83
Owensboro Museum of Fine Art / Biennial Exhibition / 1986
Society of the Four Arts / Exhibition of Contemporary American Painting / 1984

Selected Collections

Bay Park Community Hospital
(ProMedica Health System)
Carillon Importers (Absolut Vodka)
Columbia Gas of Ohio
Dana Corporation
DeVos Art Museum
Defiance College
General Motors
The Glimcher Company
Health Care REIT Inc.
KeyCorp
T. Marzetti Company
MBNA America
Monroe County Community College
Ohio Urban League
Owens-Illinois
Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio
Spiritmuseum / Stockholm
The Tile Club
The Toledo Hospital
University of Toledo
Wexner Foundation

Awards

Fine Arts Exhibition/ Ohio Exposition Commission/ Connie Layne Memorial Award / 2016
Toledo Area Artists Exhibition/ Toledo Museum of Art/ Canaday Award/ 2008
Fine Arts Exhibition / Ohio Exposition Commission / Ohio Arts Council People's Choice /2007
Butler Institute of American Art / Midyear Exhibition / Allied Artists of America Award / 2005
Toledo Area Artists Exhibition / Toledo Museum of Art / Israel Abramofsky Award / 2005
Toledo Area Artists Exhibition / Toledo Museum of Art / First Award / 2004
Toledo Area Artists Exhibition / Toledo Museum of Art / Third Award / 2000
Washington & Jefferson National Painting Show / Grumbacher Gold Medal / 1997
Toledo Area Artists Exhibition / Toledo Museum of Art / Canaday Award / 1996
Washington & Jefferson National Painting Show / Juror's Award / 1995
All Ohio '90 / Canton Art Institute / Award for Excellence / 1990
Fine Arts Exhibition / Ohio Exposition Commission / Special Award / 1989

Fine Arts Exhibition / Ohio Exposition Commission / Arts Council Award / 1987
All Ohio '86 / Canton Art Institute / Honorable Mention / 1986
Biennial Exhibition / Owensboro Museum / Purchase Award / 1986
Toledo Area Artists Exhibition / Toledo Museum of Art / Third Award / 1985
American Art Annual / Middletown Fine Arts Center / Third Award / 1985
National Exhibition / Chautauqua Art Assn. / Eva D. Weaver Memorial Award / 1984
Three Rivers Festival / Carnegie Institute / Honorable Mention / 1984
Toledo Area Artists Exhibition / Toledo Museum of Art / Best of Show / 1984
National Painting Exhibition / New Orleans Art Assn. / Grumbacher Silver Medal / 1984
American Art Annual / Middletown Fine Arts Center / Honorable Mention / 1983
Fine Arts Exhibition / Ohio Exposition Commission / Merit Awards 1983, 84, 86
National Painting Competition / Abilene Fine Arts Museum / Merit Award / 1981

Reviews, Publications (* with reproduction of artwork)

Toledo Blade / May 14, 2023
The MCCC Art Collection / 2019 *
American Art Collector / January 2018 *
Toledo Blade / November 16, 2014 *
American Arts Quarterly / Fall 2012 Vol. 29 No. 4
Toledo City Paper / April 18, 2012 *
Toledo Blade / October 26, 2008 *
Fort Wayne News-Sentinel / June 11, 2006*
Toledo City Paper / January 4, 2006 *
Cape Cod Life / June 2005 *
University of Toledo Alumni Magazine / Spring 2005 *
Toledo Blade / June 6, 2004 *
Toledo City Paper / October 2, 2003 *
Toledo Blade / September 26, 2003
American Artist Magazine / April 2003 *
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review / June 16, 2002*
Toledo City Paper / October 26, 2000 *
The Christian Science Journal / March 2000 *
New American Painting / #23 / 1999 *
Absolut Book / Journey Editions / 1996 *
Toledo Blade / August 11, 1996
Mansfield News Journal / December 8, 1994 *
Toledo Blade / November 25, 1994 *
Akron Beacon-Journal / February 20, 1994 *
Time Magazine / February 14, 1994 *
Absolut Statehood / 1993 *
Montage / June 1993 *
USA Today / May 27, 1993 *
Columbus Dispatch / May 25, 1993 *
Cincinnati Enquirer / May 25, 1993 *
Toledo Blade / May 23, 1993 *

The Ann Arbor News / December 29, 1991 *
New Art Examiner / April 1990
The Ann Arbor News / December 24, 1989 *
The Monroe Evening News / November 20, 1989 *
Columbus Dispatch / August 13, 1989 *
The Ann Arbor News / January 8, 1989 *
New Art Examiner / September 1988
The Ann Arbor News / December 20, 1987 *
Cleveland Plain Dealer / July 4, 1987 *
Toledo Metropolitan / January 1987 *
Richmond News Leader / January 18, 1986
Richmond Times-Dispatch / January 13, 1986 *
Dialogue Magazine / May-June 1985
Toledo Blade / January 9, 1985
Columbus Dispatch / October 7, 1984 *
Youngstown Vindicator / July 22, 1984 *
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette / June 15, 1984
Youngstown Vindicator / July 10, 1983 *
Northern Ohio Live Magazine / November 1982
Lake County News-Herald / October 31, 1982 *
Cleveland Plain Dealer / October 31, 1982
American Artist Magazine / October 1982 *
Toledo Blade / June 16, 1982 *
Abilene Reporter-News / February 15, 1981 *

Artist's Statement

Recording the effects of light is the essential aim and unifying theme of my work. The creation of visual illusions sometimes called mimesis as well as an awareness of a painting as an abstract, formalist construct round out my major concerns. Although I paint a varied group of subjects, a "tight" realism is typical of all my work. I feel that an interest in subject and narrative elements does not preclude concurrent attention to the abstract aspects inherent in composition in a two-dimensional picture plane.

The paintings are built from multiple layers of thinned oil paints applied to medium texture cotton canvas. I generally begin with a toned ground and establish highlight and shadow areas before applying color. This roughly approximates the traditional technique known as "imprimatura".

I make few drawings in preparation for my paintings. Generally I shoot many photographs of subjects I am considering for paintings. These photos serve as my references during the process of translating an idea to canvas. Rather than a single photo, most paintings draw from multiple source photographs. Often these are composited on the computer. I modify the color and lighting freely but do rely on the photo for information on textures and fine details.

To summarize, while aware of formalist aspects involved in the design of a painting, I do not feel such awareness precludes the use of narrative elements. I believe that paintings at their best should be complex, multi-layered constructions that do not reveal all their secrets at first glance.