

Bio:

Hector Acuna is a professional artist and educator living in Grafton, Wisconsin. He studied at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point where he earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2015 before completing his Master of Fine Arts from Michigan State University in 2020. Hector has taught art classes in drawing, painting, sculpture, and color/design for private lessons, group workshops, and at the university level.

Hector has had small group and solo exhibitions at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Scarabocchio Art Museum, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, and Noel Fine Arts Center. His work has also been juried into exhibitions at the Wisconsin Museum of Art, Site:Brooklyn Gallery, Trout Museum of Art, Baton Rouge Gallery, South Haven Center for the Arts, and Wheaton College. Hector has received various awards and grants including the Hipstamatic Entrepreneurship Award. Hector has been an active participant in various art organizations since 2013, currently he serves as a volunteer committee member in the Cedarburg Artists Guild.

Hector's paintings are held in public and private collections and have received numerous awards including Best of Show at the 2022 *Door County Plein Air Festival*, Best New Artist at the 2023 *Bath County Plein Air Festival*, First Place at the 2023 *Paint the Point*, and 2nd Place at the 2023 *Plein Air Texas* event. At the 2023 *Plein Air Convention & Expo* Hector was named the M. Stephen Doherty Breakthrough Artist of the Year. *Plein Air Magazine* recently published an article titled *Age of Exploration* on his work and journey in plein air painting in the 2023 Oct/Nov issue. At PACE24, Hector will be one of eighty invited faculty plein air artists teaching during the convention in Cherokee, North Carolina.

Artist Statement:

Hector Acuna's practice functions symbiotically between his studio and en plein air. He's found a necessary balance in each setting to explore themes of place, architecture, ethnic/cultural identity, and the human body. Hector's approach outdoors is organic, allowing shapes, colors, and textures of time in natural and human-made environments to inspire his paintings. Plein air painting is a way of documenting the present and is Hector's favorite way to find meaningful connections to the world around him, people who inhabit it, and the stories they share.

Hector works primarily in oil paint but he also rotates through gouache, casein, and handmade egg tempera. For the majority of Hector's paintings, he constructs each one by hand from the canvas and paper-mounted panels to the hand polished frames. He maintains a studious approach with relentless attention to the details of his craft to allow the nuances of his paintings to align with his creative vision and intent.