**Paul J. Gala**

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**Biography:**

Paul Gala is an artist living in Chapel Hill, NC. He continues to grow as an artist by studying with various great artists. He holds a B.A. in Economics from St. John Fisher College. Mr. Gala’s works have been exhibited in one-person, two-person and group shows, auctions, and online shows. He was awarded the Christopher E. Burke Fine Art Grant from Gallery 25N for his work in the *Emotion and Energy of Color 2018* show, as well as awards from Fusion Art shows (Honorable Mention, *5th Annual Leaves & Petals 2019* , Second Place, *2nd Annual Skies 2018,* and Honorable Mention, *3rd Annual Landscapes 2018)*. Paul has taught workshops, he has been a guest speaker, and he participated in a collaborative fine arts book project to benefit The Haw River Assembly (published in the book *Tree: a Community of Artists Exploring the Meaning of Nature*). He has a working studio and gallery at Artspace in Raleigh, NC, and is represented by North Carolina galleries at Bald Head Island, Wilkesboro, and Blowing Rock, and a Florida gallery. Paul’s work is held in private and corporate collections.

**Artist Statement:**

I have long been inspired by the magical and luminous artwork of the Old Masters, the Hudson River School artists, and others. My artistic journey was fueled by studying French Art and History in Paris, France in the early 1990s. I’ve walked the same terrain of some of the great artists, and painted at some of the same locations they did. My artistic journey continues to expand to broader strokes of color and a deeper appreciation of what the paint demands of me on the canvas, not an exact reflection of the landscape that lay out before me. These places give my work an initial direction, but the paintings always take a life of their own.

**Description of work:**

My paintings are a reflection of how I see the world, and I often get lost in the creation. I work mostly with oil on aluminum panels, creating landscapes, seascapes, and florals. Through the use of different techniques, including abandoning the brush and using my hands, rags, and other tools, I directly connect with the painting. I enjoy pushing an idea beyond its limit and pushing color so it takes a turn toward the unexpected. Although I am not married to a given moment, a version of the memory finds its final destination in my work. There is a kind of magic that happens when you are completely in the moment of painting. A viewer’s enjoyment of my art is an individual experience. I provide an initial jumping-off point, and then they are invited in for their own personal reflection.

**Suzanne Ingrao Review**

<http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/314087/53bd6e2c4a/1357015375/e49eb2c09c/>