

YOUR AD HERE

Montgomery-Lee exhibit will visually serenade art lovers



Scott Iwasaki
March 29, 2018

[Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Comments \(0\)](#) [Email](#) [Print](#) [+](#)



Courtesy of Montgomery-Lee Fine Art

"Bathed in Light," by realist painter Eric Thompson will also be among the new works on exhibit at Montgomery-Lee Fine Art.

[PREV](#) | 2 of 2 images | [NEXT](#)

An artist reception for painters Dean Bradshaw and Eric Thompson will run from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, March 30, at Montgomery-Lee Fine Art, 608 Main St. The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature new works and refreshments. For information, visit <http://www.montgomeryleefineart.com>.

Art lovers will find some new attractions when Montgomery-Lee Fine Art opens its new exhibit featuring the works of oil painter Dean Bradshaw and multimedia artist Eric Thompson Friday night.

The evening will kick off with a reception at 6 p.m. and both Salt Lake City-based artists will be on hand to talk about their paintings, mediums and subjects.

Bradshaw does what he loves

Dean Bradshaw got into art in a roundabout way because he didn't want to become an orthodontist like his father.

"He wanted me to take over the practice, and I went through all of that pre-med crap and just about died doing it," Bradshaw said. "I got my start in furniture design because I was working my way through college."

Bradshaw landed a job working under Andre Liardet, who is considered by some as one of the world's most famous furniture designers.

Thompson enjoys a challenge

Eric Thompson is a unique artist in that he specializes in three mediums — oils, watercolor and egg tempera.

"I have to flip my brain around when I shift from medium to medium," he said. "That can be painful because sometimes I will go from doing washes with watercolor and then move to egg tempera and have to remember to build up the work."

The different mediums allows the artist different ways to express himself.

"It's interesting because I always come to the mediums intuitively when I think of what I want to paint," he said. "I can get a ton of detail with egg tempera and more loose with watercolor, or in between with oil. And it's nice to have those options. It doesn't make me special. It makes me strange."

Thompson's style is realism, which was something he decided to do after seeing a work by painter Andrew Wyeth.

"I started out 18 years ago in surrealism, which is so far opposite of what I'm doing now," he said. "I thought realism was silly and boring until I saw one of Andrew's pictures of an ore that was lying on a rock wall."

The image "bowled" Thompson over, he said.

"I had never felt the emotion I felt by looking at a realism painting until then," he said. "I kind of switched my style overnight."

As Thompson began to form his style, he faced the challenges of painting representational works.

"It's always difficult to make something look real, and there are a million different ways to mess something up," he said. "Sometimes I look at what I'm doing and think it's just horrible."

Thompson approaches his works like they're puzzles.

"It's all about fitting things together," he said. "The funny thing is I usually work on six paintings at a time, and I'll flip back and forth and jump from one when it's drying to see if I can fit the pieces of each work together."

Thompson got into painting because he liked to get his hands dirty.

"I wanted to get into the medium and become one with it more," he said. "I'm also a super visual person and I wanted to make a two-dimensional image into a sort of three-dimensional image, without doing sculpture."

Thompson relies on his intuition when deciding what to paint.

"I think there is something in my soul that clicks and makes me want to capture something in paint," he said. "All of my works remind you of a simpler time, and I try to romanticize that when I create things in that world."

The artist has finished nine paintings for the Montgomery-Lee exhibit.

"That said, I might finish up a couple of more to sneak in," he said.