



Keven Furiya

Web: furiya.com

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Bio

Keven Furiya is an active member of the Seattle art community who has created art in the city for more than 25 years. While pursuing his own practice and exhibiting locally, Furiya has also moderated various life drawing sessions in the art community. His art education began at Seattle Central Community College, with Graphic Design and Illustration. This was combined with work as studio assistant to Seattle-based artist William Elston.



As a nisei (American-born Japanese), Furiya is inspired by the work and shares many of the subjects that intrigued artists Kamekichi Tokita (1897–1948) and Kenjiro Nomura (1896–1956). Both immigrated from Japan at the turn of the 20th century, becoming Seattle business partners in a sign-painting shop. This was located in Nihonmachi, that local precinct currently known as the Chinatown International District. Prominent contributors to the Pacific Northwest art world from the early 1900's to the 1940s, each participated in the national Public Works of Art Project (PWAP). Both artists' plein air paintings of their neighborhoods and surroundings provide a visual snapshot of their era: a time which, for the city, proved pivotal. They continue to influence Furiya's urban landscapes, his interiors and his portraits of fellow artists.

Statement

I am fascinated by the urban everyday, the beauty of spots and surfaces we often pass yet usually scorn. To me these lines and colors, mutations and contradictions, have an equilibrium all their own. Often, in their balance of poise and fatigue, I find an incarnation of our transience.

Although such ephemeral scenes surround us all, we are easily blinded to them by life's distractions. My paintings are a personal chronicle of their character. But it is also my attempt to show how, if we only pause to look, we discover time's fundamental dignity.



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“Cloudy and Clear”, oil/canvas, 24 x 44 inches



“Great Northern Rail Tunnel”, oil/canvas,
26 x 21 inches



“Stranded”, oil/linen, 16 x 24 inches



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Resume

Selected Exhibitions

- 2022 Solo Show, Vermillion Gallery, "Urban Textures", Seattle WA
- 2022 Asia Pacific Cultural Center, "Plein Air Works on Paper", Tacoma, WA
- 2018 Solo Show, Zeitgeist Kunst & Kaffee
- 2017 Solo Show, Dendroica Gallery, Seattle
- 2016 Group Show, Dendroica Gallery, Seattle
- 2012 Solo show, Vecta Photo Studio/Gallery, Georgetown, Seattle
- 2011 Juried group show, C Gallery, Seattle
- 2011 Group show, Vandenbrink Gallery, Tashiro Kaplan Building, Seattle
- 2010 Group show, Georgetown Art Center, Seattle
- 2009 Group show, Corridor Gallery, Seattle
- 2008 Solo show, Muree M Bronner Gallery, Neptune Art Center, Utica, New York

Awards

- 2017 Recipient of smART Ventures Grant provided by ACES/Office of Art & Culture/Shunpike
- 2008 Co-recipient, King County 4culture Grant – in collaboration with Doug Vann, David Guilbault and Andrew Zadrozny

Education

- 1995-1998 William E. Elston – Oil painting studies, Seattle Washington
- 1995-1999 Seattle Academy of Fine Art (Gage), Seattle, Washington
- 1995-1996 Seattle Central Community College, Seattle, Washington Graphic Design & Illustration
- 1986 Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana – Bachelor of Science



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