JULIAN MERCER

FINE ARTIST

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Painter and mixed-media artist with 12+ years of exhibitions, studio practice, and teaching. Builds cohesive bodies of work, manages commissions and gallery relationships, writes grant and artist statements, and teaches studio practice to college students.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Studio Artist and Visiting Faculty Aug 2021 - Present
California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA

- Teach two undergraduate painting courses a semester to 36 students and guide critiques that improve final portfolio scores.
- Complete 8 to 10 large-scale paintings a year and sold 14 works across gallery shows and commissions in 2025.
- Secured two grants totaling $18,000 by writing project proposals with budgets, timelines, and community outcomes.
- Curated a 22-artist student exhibition in the college gallery, handling installation, labels, and an opening that drew 300 visitors.
- Documented works with studio photography and kept a catalogue of 200+ pieces with dimensions, media, and sale history.
- Delivered artist talks to community groups and alumni of 40 to 80 people and used the events to book three commissions.
- Worked with a framer and shipper to prepare pieces for exhibition, losing none to transit damage across 20 shipments.

Adjunct Instructor, Painting and Drawing Jan 2019 - Jul 2021
Academy of Art University, San Francisco, CA

- Taught three sections of introductory painting and drawing a term to about 60 students, running portfolio reviews at midterm and finals.
- Developed a 12-painting coastal landscape series alongside teaching and presented it as a solo exhibition in 2021.
- Collaborated with a composer colleague on an installation that combined projected paint studies and sound for two performances.
- Published an artist statement and portfolio on a professional site that increased commission inquiries after the exhibition.

Studio Assistant and Preparator Sep 2016 - Dec 2018
Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA

- Installed and de-installed exhibitions of 60 to 120 works, using condition reports and handling protocols for framed and unframed pieces.
- Built crates, walls, and mounts for traveling shows and kept every artwork to agreed environmental and lighting standards.
- Assisted with the education department's studio programs for about 2,000 school visitors a year.

Gallery Assistant Jun 2014 - Aug 2016
Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco, CA

- Assisted gallery directors with sales, shipping, and artist communications for contemporary exhibitions.
- Greeted collectors and visitors and handled pricing and availability inquiries on opening nights.
- Updated the inventory database with titles, editions, and dimensions for 300+ works so sales records matched stock.

CORE SKILLS

Oil and acrylic painting | Mixed media | Drawing | Exhibition curation | Grant writing | Artist statements | Studio teaching and critique | Art handling and installation | Commission management | Portfolio photography | Color theory | Printmaking | Inventory cataloguing

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Painting, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

CERTIFICATIONS

OSHA 10-Hour General Industry | CPR and First Aid