

## John Davis Held

John Davis Held's love for art began in his early childhood when his parents would bring him and his two sisters to the world-class art galleries of New York City. These trips, often paired with a meal at a fine restaurant, pointed him in the direction his life would ultimately take.

John has a vivid memory of eating his first chocolate éclair in the member's cafeteria of the Museum of Modern Art, after visiting a Rene Magritte exhibition. He recalls this day as a real eye-opener and a turning point in his love for fine art.



John also developed a love for travel, often drawing his inspiration for paintings from the many countries he experienced. For example, John spent several months living in an African Hut before hitch-hiking across Europe to paint the cathedrals, castles, and countryside. Traveling has allowed John to probe “extraordinary and sacred mysteries from different vantage points” to ensure that something unique and inspirational lies beneath the beauty of his art.

*“We are the lucky ones. For those who love art, looking at artwork that moves us is like drinking a glass of exquisite wine—only incomparably better! As artists, we pick up our pastels and paintbrushes and make our marks on paper, canvas, and the world. My work has a deep sense of peace and light, and it is an honor to share it with so many kind souls.”*

When not traveling, John is in his studio in the Baltimore neighborhood of Tuscany-Canterbury, where he draws inspiration from the beautiful Tudor architecture, his wife, and their three cats.

John Davis Held is known for beautiful, pastoral landscape paintings. His art is available at the HorseSpirit Arts Gallery and the Troika Gallery in Maryland; Gallery D'May in New Jersey; and the New Canaan Gallery in Connecticut.

### **Current Gallery Representation**

HorseSpirit Art Gallery	2021 - present
The Troika Gallery	2014 – present
Gallery D’May	2019 – present
The New Canaan Gallery	2019 – present

### **One Man Shows and Featured Gallery Artist Exhibitions**

Gallery D’May, Cape May, NJ	July, 2020
Gallery D’May, Cape May, NJ	July, 2019
National Institute of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD	September, 2019
The Troika Gallery, MD	March, 2015
The Peninsula Gallery, Lewes, MD	June, 2012
The Antreasian Gallery, Baltimore	November, 2010
The National Institute for Health, Washington D.C.	July, 2009

### **Selected Group Shows**

The Troika Gallery, MD	2014 - 2020
Salmagundi Club (Salmagundi Club Award winner)	2019
Artscape, Baltimore	2008, 2009, 2010
The Hoffberger Gallery, Baltimore MD	2009
Two Person Show	
Slayton House, Bethesda MD	2008
Shades of Pastel National Juried Exhibition	
Glenview Museum, Bethesda MD	2006
Maryland Pastel Society Signature Members	
NW Pastel Society International Exhibit, Seattle WA	2005

Women Painters of Washington Award	
NW Pastel Society International Exhibit, Seattle WA	2002
The Alder Gallery, Bellingham WA	2002
Four Person Show	
Art in Port Townsend, Port Townsend WA	1999, 1998
Annual Shows	
Pastel Society of New Mexico, Santa Fe NM	1999, 1998
Annual Show	
Northwest Pastel Society, Seattle WA	1998
International Show - Board of Directors Award	

### **Publications and Television**

Featured Art – Artworks, PBS	2019
Artist Interview – CBS News	2010
Artist Interview – Fox News	2010
The Pastel Journal Annual Top 100 Artists	2002
Interview as an award winner	

### **Workshops and Demos**

Maryland Pastel Society, Bethesda MD	2010
Sky Painting Demo	
Daniel Smith Inc, Seattle, WA	1997-2002
Pastel and Watercolor Workshops	

### **Education**

The Evergreen State College, Olympia WA	BA in Art
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