

Christine Copeland

Artist Statement

February 2026

Our world is infinitely complex and changing. Painting it can help us see this as we focus on the details. I paint and draw to express my fascination with recurrent transitory processes in the natural world – the seasonal movements of animals, both large and tiny, the ephemeral beauty and power of clouds, and my own movement through the ever changing landscape. My paintings tell these stories but do not instruct so much as share glimpses of color, form, movement and purpose. I want to illustrate a story but I also want to paint a picture that has a life of its own.

In this exhibit, I am particularly interested in scale. How can we imagine an immense space by viewing a small 6" x 9" painting? And yet we do. We translate that small image into a huge space in our imaginations and can remember our response to expansiveness. On the other hand, when we look closely at a very small life form, a hummingbird moth, a bee, a tadpole, our experience is different, more focused, more immediate. We dive deeply into a world that is, in many ways, foreign to us, and we make it large.

Laying down wet paint on a wet surface yields surprises – colors and forms that emerge and blend with my intention or happy accidents! I use Royal Talens water based oil paints on canvas and Van Gogh watercolors or acrylic inks on paper. I return to oils and watercolors out of a desire to use more traditional and naturally processed materials. The acrylic inks look and act like watercolor paints but are more convenient for the book illustrations because they are easier to modify and change..

I've come back to painting after a long hiatus of professional publications work during which I did illustration. Living on Masson Ridge, a conserved "forever wild" woodland, allows me to observe firsthand the subject matter of my work. These days, I'm paying attention to how still one must be to see things in the forest. A new sighting is always very exciting, even if it's a previously overlooked Painted Trillium hiding behind a tree. Animals are generally shy so to see a coyote returning to its den requires senses on high alert. This is good for a painter.

Christine Copeland

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CAREER PROFILE:

I have a studio-based arts practice. I am a painter and also an author/illustrator of children's books. Before this, I had 40 years professional experience in teaching, design, publications and administration in the field of education, specializing in creative solutions to promoting student success, primarily in college settings.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

Painting and Drawing: graphite, oil paint, acrylic ink and paint.
Graphic Design, Marketing and Illustration
Outreach and Public Relations
Student Advising and Coaching

EDUCATION: ANTIOCH/NEW ENGLAND GRADUATE SCHOOL

Degree: Masters of Education, 1991

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Degree: Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1975

AMERICAN COLLEGE IN PARIS

Degree: Associate of Arts, 1972

Dean's Medal, 1972

WORK HISTORY:

2021 to present	Author/Illustrator - Children's Books: <i>Ghost of John, Seasons in the Forest</i> (4 book series)
2017 to present	Painter - Studio Practice with Budge Hyde, workshops with Christopher Volpe, Todd Bonita
2017 - 2018	Freelance writer , Greenfield Community College, Greenfield MA
2012 - 2017	Internship Coordinator , Greenfield Community College, Greenfield MA
2008 - 2012	Renewable Energy Program Advisor , Greenfield Community College, Greenfield MA
2003 - 2008	Northern Woolies, (retail store and interest group) Greenfield, MA, sole proprietor
1990 - 2003	Freelance Communications Specialist, Graphic Designer and Illustrator
1995 - 1998	Public Relations and Publications Consultant , Northeast Apple Association
1991 - 1992	Associate Teacher , E-II (10 to 12 year-olds), The Common School, Amherst, MA.
1986 - 1989	Director of Publications , Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

(Illustrations published in countless educational and commercial materials. Portfolio upon request.)

Exhibits:

Exhibitor, Lava Center, Greenfield - Words on Art on Words, Fall 2025

Exhibitor - Amherst Art on the Lawn, Amherst History Museum, Summer/Fall 2023, 2024

Solo Exhibit - Spring! - Holyoke Heritage State Park and Museum, March/April 2024

Solo Exhibit - Smith Botanical Gardens - August/2023

Solo Exhibit - The Gallery at Dickinson Memorial Library, Paintings, Northfield Rambles - June/2022

Dual Exhibit, Great Falls Discovery Center - Light, Breath, Form/Sculpture and Paintings - August 2021

Connecticut River Museum - Hands on the Land - Spring 2021

Lyme Art Association - Hands on the Land - Spring 2021

Solo Exhibit - Amherst Arts Walk, Amherst Town Hall Jan/Feb, 2020

Greenfield Community College - Spring Art Show 2019

Dickinson Memorial Library - Group Show for Patrons

GCC Spring Art Show 2018

Commissioned illustrations for book covers

New England Apple Association painting for publicity materials

Illustrations of private homes

AWARDS:

Creative Individual Grant, Mass Cultural Council, 2025

Reader's Choice Award / **Gold**, Autumn in the Forest

Reader's Choice Award/ Finalist, Have You Seen the Ghost of John

Case Recognition Awards:

1990 Tabloid Publishing, Bronze

1989 Public Relations Publications, Gold

1989 Tabloid Publishing, Gold

1989 Design in Print, Silver

1988 Fund Raising Direct Mail, Bronze

1988 Computers in Programs & Creative Projects, Bronze

1987 Fund Raising Publications, Bronze

1987 Covers and Nameplate Designs, Silver

Admissions Marketing Report:

1989 Total Advertising Package, Silver

1988 Total Advertising Package, Gold

1987 Total Advertising Package, Gold

VOLUNTEER activities:

Ongoing

Greenfield Community College: Podcaster, OASIS

2015 to present

Mount Grace Land Trust: development committee and design consultation

2011 to 2015

University of Rochester: college fair representative

2008 to present:

Northfield Mount Hermon School: fundraising

1999 - 2003

Greenfield Historical Society, Board of Directors, newsletter and press releases

1996 - 2000

KidsPLAYce Brattleboro, VT; Board of Directors, President 1998 - 2000

LANGUAGES (fluent): English, French, some Spanish

