

ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

A DAY AT GRAND MARAIS

B-J Mushet-Norman, BFA

Pastel on Paper (1998)

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I was born in Silver Spring, Maryland. By grade school, I had developed a passion for figure drawing and painting. At age 16 I began spending summers selling charcoal portraits of tourists on Cape Cod; this business continued through high school and college. After graduating from the Richmond Professional Institute with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, I perfected my portrait skills through study with many professional portrait artists over my career, which now has spanned more than 50 years.

After moving to Minnesota in 1979, I established my first home portrait studio. In January of 2017, I relocated my studio to the beautiful Anderson Center in Red Wing, Minnesota. (<http://www.andersoncenter.org/artists2.htm>)

Oils are my favorite portrait medium, although I frequently work in pastels, pen and ink, charcoal, and pencil. My portraits are usually done from a combination of sittings by the subject and photographs taken during the first sitting. I can do my very best

work from subject sittings because it allows me to really know my subject. However, I can create an excellent portrait using only photographs.

In addition to scores of private collections locally and nationally, my works are on public display at the Vasa Lutheran Center in Vasa, Minnesota; the Museum of Art and the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida; and the Army Aviation Museum at Ft. Rucker, Alabama.

A Day at Grand Marais is from the collection of Captain Al and Joey Kettelkamp. To the Kettelkamp family, this scene of Joey and her children, Sarah and Matt, captures a moment shared among them on the rugged shore of their beautiful and much loved family home on Lake Superior. For the family, the picture summarizes a lifetime of memories. For other observers, the painting shows a moment of happiness and love shared by a mother and her children.

To me this portrait is a fine example of a family enjoying each other's company as they explore and share a deep partnership with nature. This work was created from a series of photos taken by the father during a special family outing with the mother and their children.

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