

Peter Poskas

1939 -

"For Poskas every dot, line, mass, detail and color must serve two demanding masters: faithfulness to appearance and ideal order; he does this by balancing sensitive perceptions and exquisite construction, resulting in paintings as real as nature herself and as composed as the works of Mondrian."
 - Theodore F. Wolff, Art critic, "Mondrian would have liked it" *Christian Science Monitor*, 1984

Peter Poskas was born in Waterbury in 1939, graduated from Barnard School and Leavenworth High School, and, despite demonstrating an early talent for drawing, went off to the University of Connecticut, fully intending to embark upon a career in forestry and wildlife management.

But while he was a student at UConn, a fundamental shift occurred. Simply put, in the view of the school's forestry program, trees were a crop; in Poskas' view, they were much more. After a year away from school, he decided that he wanted to pursue his growing interest in, and natural ability for, art. With the support of his parents, Nell and Peter, he enrolled at the Paier Art School in New Haven.

His career grew from there, through Paier and the University of Hartford, a year of teaching at Woodbury High School and then the fine arts program at the University of Massachusetts. At length, he produced paintings, mostly rural scenes of Woodbury, CT and Conway, MA. In the mid-1960's he had his first show, at New Haven's Munson Gallery.

By the end of that decade, as he built houses on the side, including his own, to help support his young family, Poskas came back to Waterbury to paint. The street scenes that attracted him were mostly in the area of Washington Avenue, where he grew up, and where he could sketch while visiting his parents. But he also found other familiar subjects, such as Ste. Anne Church and Borelli's restaurant on East Main Street. Eventually, however, he returned to his first love, painting rural landscapes, especially dairy farms and farmhouses in Litchfield County, as well as scenes along mid-coast Maine. He has been happily and brilliantly working in these two subject areas for the past 35 years.

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Poskas has been called "a virtuoso", and compared with Andrew Wyeth and Edward Hopper. "His work reveals his awareness of the way the eye moves across the canvas, the texture of the soil, the movement and weight of the land," explains one observer, trying to capture the ineffable. The truth is that the paintings speak most eloquently for themselves.

Poskas lives in Washington, CT; close to many of his subjects. His son, Peter, is also a well-regarded painter.