

David Rosenthal: Paintings of the North and South Polar Regions Collection CAE1202

Introduction / Abstract

Rosenthal spent 6 Austral summers and 4 Austral winters in the Antarctic (1 summer and 2 winters as a visiting artist), and has lived in and traveled extensively through the northern polar regions. Throughout those journeys he has sketched and painted the landscape in preparation for making larger studio works. This archive contains sketchbooks, studies, and exhibition catalogs that trace the evolution of his work from field to studio to exhibition.

David Rosenthal

Rosenthal at first studied physics in college, but graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington in 1976 with an interdisciplinary degree before moving to Cordova, Alaska in 1977 to work in the fishing industry and paint landscapes. By the end of the decade he was traveling to remote villages as part of the Artist in the Schools Program sponsored by the State of Alaska. He later participated in the U.S. Coast Guard Art Program, which put him aboard the icebreaker *Polar Star* for trips to Greenland and the northern polar ice cap. He has lived in Cordova, Alaska for many years, and after working in the Antarctic for several seasons was accepted into the National Science Foundation Antarctic Visiting Artist program.

Scope and Content

Rosenthal moved to Cordova, Alaska in 1977 to work in the fishing industry and paint landscapes. By the end of the decade he has traveled to remote villages as part of the Artist in the Schools Program sponsored by the State of Alaska. In 1988, he participated in the U.S. Coast Guard Art Program, which put him aboard the icebreaker *Polar Star* for trips to Greenland and the northern polar ice cap.

He has lived in Cordova, Alaska for many years, and after working in the Antarctic for several seasons was accepted into the National Science Foundation Antarctic Visiting Artist program. Rosenthal spent 6 Austral summers and 4 Austral winters in the Antarctic (1 summer and 2 winters as a visiting artist during 1993, 1996, 1999), and has lived in and traveled extensively through the northern polar regions. Throughout those journeys he has sketched and painted the landscape in preparation for making larger studio works. As Rosenthal put it in an interview in the April 2012 issue of *Physics World*:

“Although I cannot claim to be a physicist by any measure, what I did learn has been the key to the success of my work as an artist. I paint my landscapes using only pencil sketches done at the actual locations. The painting of the scene is more the creation of an abstract structure than just the copying of an image. Understanding the properties of light and colour is important, and I learned about light and colour from physics. More importantly, the scientific method has shaped my thinking. Whenever I am involved in trying to create one of my landscapes, I look for the rational explanations behind what I see. If I can understand something, I can paint it.

Dates

1988 - 2004

**Quantity / Extent**

.25 cubic feet

Language

English

Arrangement

This archive is arranged into one folder:

- Folder 1: Exhibition Ephemera, Studies, and Journals
- Folder 2: Images of David Working

Related Archive Collections

- CAE1042: Lita Albuquerque: Stellar Axis, Antarctica
- CAE1103: Joan Myers-Wondrous Cold: An Antarctic Journey
- CAE1107: Stephen Eastaugh: Antarctic Work
- CAE1112: Simon Balm: Stellar Axis: Antarctica
- CAE1117: William L. Fox: Terra Antarctica

Related Publications

Wignall Museum/Gallery, Chaffey College, "Alaskan Landscapes: Views of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" (Rancho Cucamonga, California: Chaffey College, 1994).

William L. Fox, "Terra Antarctica: Looking into the Emptiest Continent" (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 2005).

Container Listing:**CAE1202: Folder 1, 1988 – 2004****CAE Box 18**

- 1 Exhibition Ephemera, Studies, and Journals, 1988 – 2004
- 2 Images of David Working, 2010 – 2012

CAE Box 19 Objects

- 13 Journal, 1989 #1
- 14 Journal, 1989 #2
- 15 Journal, Not dated
- 16-109 Watercolor studies, 1-95
- 110-121 Oil Studies, 1-11