



## Biographical Information:

I grew-up on Chicago's Northwest suburbs. The union between my parents set the stage for many of my interests and pursuits. This union brought together the influential Northshore and the streets of Bucktown. My ancestry and bodily instincts include both Chicago's leadership class and working class. In recent years I settled in the old industrial city of East Chicago, which shares in Chicago's Calumet industrial heritage on the southern shores of Lake Michigan.

I graduated from the University of Kansas in 1987 with a BFA in Painting, a minor in Philosophy and a concentration in Languages (French and Russian). While at the University of Kansas I received the Ward Lockwood Merit Scholarship three years continuous and an undergraduate research grant. I also took a year to study in Paris at the Sorbonne. The most notable impressions I took away from this experience were the national elections (between Mitterrand, Chirac, and LePen), and my experience of the various built environments throughout Europe (including the development of nouvelle villes around Paris, the Eastern Europe regions before the collapse of the East Block nations and the marginal Christian/Muslim regions).

I then attended Indiana University on scholarship and graduated with an MFA in Painting in 1993. While at Indiana University I received The National Society of the Arts and Letters Top Award, and a scholarship to attend the Vermont Studio School.

My completion of an MFA happened to correspond with the birth of the internet and I just had to understand what this new space was about. I took this moment to engage in what was at the time a primitive, undefined, and malleable space. The internet was mostly potential providing a unique set of visual and spatial concerns. I found my place in pioneering online learning communities for highly motivated learners in the medical field, which culminated with the creation of KaplanMedical.com.

Recently I've taken my interests and skills and shifted my focus toward the built environment in a highly impaired region that was clearly not meeting minimal requirements necessary for sustaining a livable community. During these last years I began to address the negative externalities of the Chicago Metropolitan area found in the marginalized areas of Northwest Indiana. I was appointed to the East Chicago Redevelopment Commission, participated in regional planning initiatives, and I initiated a comprehensive plan for the City of East Chicago, while pursuing a graduate degree in Urban Planning. I was also named Director of the East Chicago Waterway Management District with the responsibility to envision a waterway that meets the demographic and economic needs of the coming decades. It also meant that development occur in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

Throughout my career I continually find myself returning to the studio as if on sabbatical. Each step brings forward and integrates my ancestral instincts with the present. I find that painting provides me this chance to integrate what would otherwise seem in-congress.

These interests are perhaps attributed to an instinct relating back to my maternal ancestor - Roswell B. Mason, a well-known civil engineer of his time, who was especially known for serving as Mayor of Chicago during the Chicago Fire of 1871. I can't help but think this and other ancestral relations are instrumental in the formation of my interests.

I have been fortunate throughout my career to pursue these interests with great intensity and success, and have indulged them by engaging in a series of visually dominated fields (from the theoretic and physical pursuits of painting, to the practical concerns of designing medical educational communities online and my work in the built urban environment). This indulgence is a kind of disease I caught while studying Art in a University setting.