

# Joe Enns

May 2024 featured artist

Joe Enns would play in his Dutch great grandfather's studio as a child and make plans to dedicate himself to oil painting when he retired. However, when Joe's father passed away at the age of fifty-seven in 2014, Joe decided not to wait. He had only taken art classes in high school, but he absorbed any lesson from books or online sources (YouTube tutorials) and taught himself to paint with oils.

Starting with landscape and nature, especially plein air painting, Joe painted portraits as an extra practise because he'd heard that if you can paint faces and figures, you can paint anything. Skin tones are complex, and the proportions of the face are unforgiving. Soon he came to enjoy painting portraits the most and devoted his efforts to portraits alone, focussing closely on the face. Surrounded by masked faces during Covid, Joe decided to fill his studio with bare faces at home, challenging himself to complete one portrait a week for a year.

Other artists continually tell Joe that portraits don't sell. But he replies that interesting paintings sell no matter the subject. The challenge is to create compelling portraits that capture the subject's persona and resonate with the viewer. Between commissions,

exhibitions, and competitions, Joe's paintings strike a chord with art collectors who love to see themselves as part of the process.

Joe now lives in Nanoose Bay on Vancouver Island where he paints from a home studio with his partner, and landscape artist, *Kelly Corbett*. He has participated in many solo and group exhibitions around BC, from the Lower Mainland to the Okanagan to Vancouver Island, and his work is shown in the *Nomad Gallery* in White Rock.

[www.ennsjoe.com](http://www.ennsjoe.com)

[enns.joe@gmail.com](mailto:enns.joe@gmail.com)

[@ennsjoe \(IG\)](https://www.instagram.com/ennsjoe)

