

elder gallery

of contemporary art

Massachusetts-native **Don Demers** was born in 1956 in Lunenburg, Massachusetts, spurring his life-long fascination with the rocky coast of New England. Summers in Maine and experiences as a sailing crewmember helped Demers fall in love with the marine landscape, which is now a mainstay of his plein air paintings. Although he began his artistic career as an illustrator, Demers is now best known and loved for his renderings of quaint New England seafaring communities.

Demers' command of light and shadow infuses his work with a delicate, romantic beauty and a glow reminiscent of the Old Masters. He sees light as a driving force for human life and an earthly connection to the divinity of the universe. This, in combination with his skillful realism, enables him to capture both the look and feel of the American coast. Demers cultivated a heightened sensitivity to detail while working as an illustrator because it taught him to tell stories in two dimensions. A good visual story, he says, is just as dependent upon the details that are left out as it is upon the ones that are included. Intention is the key when making his selections, and for Demers, the intention is always in service to his passion for careful study of the world around him.

The guiding principle in Demers' work is beauty. He notes that many artists create in the name of politics or societal critique, but his goal is to present the viewer with a glimpse of his own aesthetic and visceral response to a scene. This makes for inviting and compelling work, which transcends the representational and becomes personal.

Demers was educated at the School of Worcester Museum in Worcester, MA and the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston. He has had his work published in a number of books, catalogues, and art publications, such as *Art & Antiques* magazine and *Plein Air Magazine*. As an illustrator, his work appeared in *Reader's Digest*, *Sail Magazine*, *Field & Stream*, *Sports Afield*, *Yankee*, *National Geographic* and others. Now fully focused on painting, Demers also makes instructional YouTube videos for aspiring artists.