

# Communication Through Observation Loren Eakins



**September 2 - October 19, 2024**

**Benedict and Dorothy Gorecki Gallery**

**Benedicta Arts Center - College of St. Benedict**

**Gallery Hours: Monday - Saturday 10am - 9pm**

Professionally trained as an artist and biologist, and a natural-born adventurer, Loren Eakins' unique qualifications provide a varied lens through which he paints his experience of the natural world. Through his passionate knowledge of the dynamism of nature, Loren uses his art to communicate his deep understanding and love of the beauty around us.

## CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS EXHIBITION ENGAGES WITH:

- Communication
- Empiricism
- Skillfulness
- Environment well being
- Beauty
- Honesty

## ONLINE RESOURCES

<https://www.loreneakins.com/>

<https://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/visual-arts/>

<https://americanwatercolor.net/what-are-you-looking-at/>

## ENGAGE

Eakins is both an artist and a biologist and while combining art and science careers may seem antithetical this is largely due to ideologies overrepresented in the humanities. Both realism and science share a specific outlook and are the result of an empirical framework valuing observation and reason over raw emotionality. This allows us to look at the world, make accurate assertions, and communicate them to one another. Art is a method of communication so the ideas and values one subscribes to will be visible in the work. Science cannot work without observation, clarity, accuracy, and honesty and you will see these same values in Eakins approach to painting.

- How does clear communication in art correspond to scientific communication?
- Why is honesty important in science? How does this importance translate to other forms of communication?
- What do these paintings tell you about the value of nature?
- How does emotionality reduce the clarity of communication in art?

Almost everything humans have ever built, started with a drawing, including the lunar lander spacecraft, video games, photography, movies/TV and many of the buildings we live our lives inside. All these things hold great sway in our society and are all based in realism.

- Why do people like realism?
- What is your personal process for sharing an idea? How do your strengths and skills define the way you communicate to the world?
- Do people have to be challenged by art for it to create a positive change in our society and our lives?

Over the past 100 years our environment has shifted, climate change, loss of wilderness, extinction, and toxic chemicals loom large in our mind. Paper after paper talks about the mental health benefits of being outside, while humans have increasingly shifted to an indoor lifestyle. Art can communicate and reinforce what we value. When we take the time to learn to paint and paint a specific subject matter skillfully it creates value in the subject.

- How do you integrate beauty into your life?
- What role does art play in creating comfortable spaces for people?
- How can peaceful means of communication be more effective for changing one's mind than aggression?