

Your Illusionary World > Frame it! >Relative Shapes and Sizes > Illusion of Depth > Vision & Light > Oil Techniques > **Local Artist** > Studio visit possibilities

**Visiting Open Studios**

Local artist studios often have open houses, "open studios" around this time of year. There are many artist collaboratives and group studios in Massachusetts. Obviously, Metro Boston like the South End, Arlington, Somerville, Cambridge, Malden, and so forth will have plenty, but I have concentrated on the ones located in and on the borders of Central Mass for this "invitation" to you to see some fellow painters' works. An extensive list of studio openings can be found on: <http://www.artistlink.org/?q=spacetoolbox/forartists/openstudios> . My studio is more atypical because it is my home as well, but you are welcomed to phone if you are in Ayer, perhaps you will catch a private art lesson in progress.



Catherine Meeks, oils, Acton Studios.

[http://www.artisticsisters.com/catherine/CMNew\\_4.html](http://www.artisticsisters.com/catherine/CMNew_4.html)



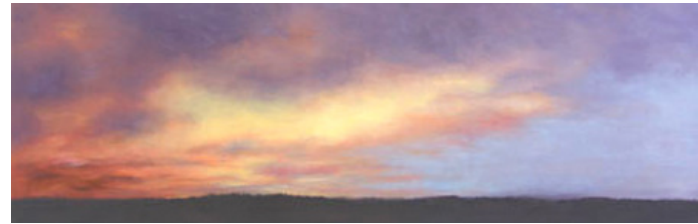
Fran Busse, oil sketches en plein air, Acton Studios

<http://www.bussestudio.com/recentpaintings.html>



Kate Gasser, Plein Air Landscapes, Framingham's Fountain Street Studios

<http://www.kgstudio.net/kgstudio/LubecBuildings.htm>



Karen S Jacobs  
Fountain Street Studios  
<http://karensjacobs.com>

My only knowledge of the profiled painters are from their respective website, but their works visually exemplifies the type of **looking and seeing** that I would like you to develop. They see the large shapes of color in relations to one another... parts that are higher in value & others lower... some reds are more yellow than others & some greens are more bluish or brownish than others. They are comparing the distinct hue, value, and proportions of large areas within their canvas to create the illusion of light and space... essential.

**Unfortunately, this year's open houses have already past... if interested, please keep your schedule clear for next year.**

[Absolutely Art Open Studios: \(late October\) Acton Open Studios.](#)

[ArtSpace Maynard Open Studios: \(early October\)](#)

[Lowell Open Studios: \(late September\)](#)

[Fountain Street Open Studios: \(early April\) South Framingham.](#)

[Fall River Open Studios: \(early May\)](#)

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**Jeff Fishera** <http://www.ficherapaintings.com/1archive1.html>

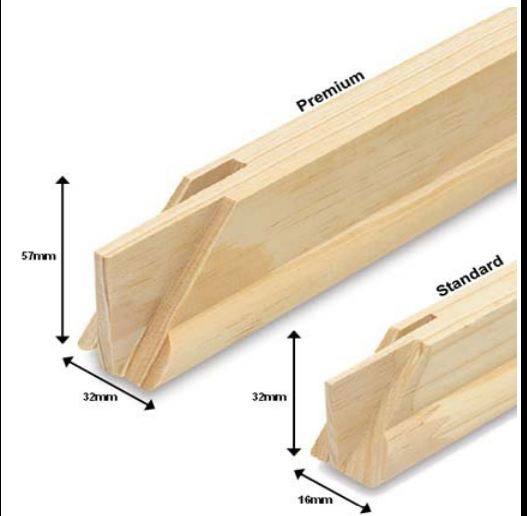
A realist painter I worked with at Utrecht. He studied at Mass Art for undergrad and Upenn for graduate school.



Jeff's recent works are slightly more abstracted views of reality, but the works in his archives illustrate his development as a realist painter by **painting large blocks of color/light in relations to each other.**

**Demo: Stretching A Canvas**

1) Stretching your own canvas is easier than you think. First, assemble stretcher bars and square assembly off at a door frame.



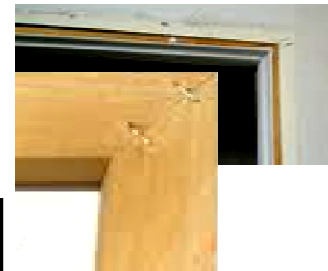
3) Stretch canvas over assembly starting at the middle of opposing bars and staple (bottom, far right). Good canvases are folded neatly at their corners. This is a way that my teacher, Keith Washington from Mass Art taught. (bottom, left & mid)

2) With heavy duty staples, tack the corners of your squared off stretcher bars to secure its structure .

<< Heavy duty stapler



Secured >>



Staple canvas to bars at angle >>

<< Neatly folded corners

Image above from [warehouseexpress.com](http://warehouseexpress.com) . Stretcher bars come in standard lengths and thicknesses We are using the thinner "standard" thickness in the demo.

4) Stretched canvas is ready to be covered traditionally with size to separate acid in oil paint from the fabric, then apply gesso mixed with ground to allow the paint to stick, but today, 3-5 coats of acrylic gesso/ground is all we need -- sand between coats if smoothness is desired.

