

# Hard in the Paint

No. 4

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

June, 2023



Delancey Street – Oil on Linen – 40” x 60”

## An Interview with Pennsylvania Hyperrealist Painter Harold Zabady

Today, I'm talking with photorealist painter Harold Zabady ...

Hi, Harold. Can you tell us how long you've been making art, and how you got started with it?

Hi Paul, I've been creating since I was a kid. I drew constantly. In high school I began creating films both in live action and animation.

Are there particular artists who have influenced your work?

I decided to major in art education at Mansfield University (PA) and taught for 32 years in K- 12th. I started painting in 1968 at Keystone Junior College. During one of my painting classes for my

Masters in Painting at Edinboro University, my painting professor introduced us to the 1st generation Photorealists. "Storefront" is the 1st painting that I did in this style (1984). I was influenced by Ralph Goings, Richard Estes, and Don Eddy.

Can you speak a bit about your method? It seems very labor intensive.

My method is pretty much what most photorealists use, I grid a 11" x 14" photo and enlarge it to usually a 40" x 60" canvas. It is very labor intensive but I love to draw and enjoy a challenge. I generally do an acrylic underpainting after which I go back over it in oils on linen canvas which allows me to refine the details.

You've been in a lot of shows and won awards. How did you get started with showing your work in public, and what is your proudest moment as an artist?

I began entering exhibits in college with the Art of the State in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. My proudest moment was when the State Museum purchased my Storefront painting which is part of their permanent collection.

I love your urban scenes, and also the automotive themed paintings. How did that get started?

When I retired from teaching in 2004, I was determined to get represented by a gallery in NYC. After many rejections, I got a call back from Ivan Karp of the famed O.K. Harris Gallery in NYC. Ivan told me that he couldn't sell my automotive paintings and encouraged me to try painting the urban landscape. I went back to the studio and did "Delancey Street" which was my biggest sale at the time and got me affiliated with the gallery.

Where is the best place for folks to see your art (either online or in person)?

My work can be found at [Plus One Gallery](#) and my [website](#).



Storefront – Oil on Linen – 40" x 60"



# My Three Favorite Brushes

by Paul Erlandson

I started off buying paint brushes at local art stores. Since I paint with oils, I selected brushes from that part of the brush aisle dedicated to oil painting brushes. I never did well with those. In order to get the flat, even feel I wanted, largely free of visible brush strokes, I ended up buying brushes that were labeled as being for acrylic paints. I now typically buy my brushes online, e.g., from [Blick](#). Here are my Top 3 “go to” brushes.

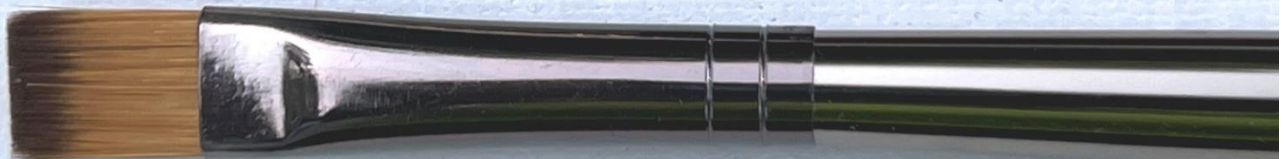
Princeton Select 5/0 Spotter ~ \$3.14  
or: Princeton Select 5/0 Round Mini ~ \$3.36



Princeton Heritage #2 Bright (4000B) ~ \$8.14



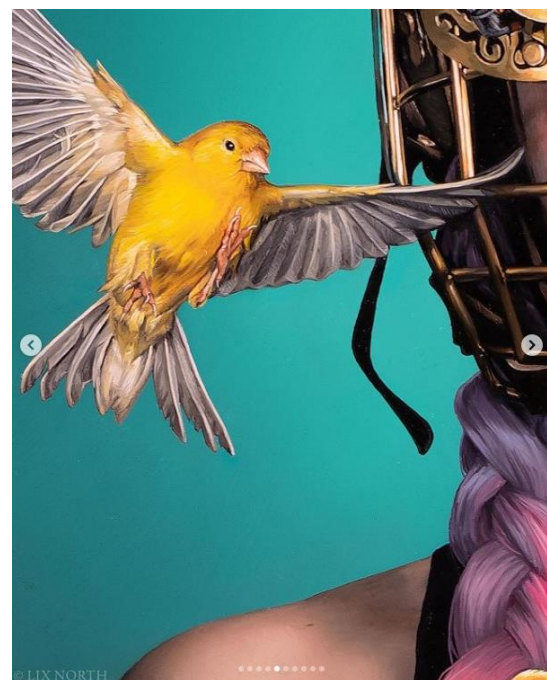
Royal & Langnickel Zen #4 (Z43B) ~ \$2.79



I use the small, pointy blue one for anything needing fine details (e.g., for rendering human eyes). The small Bright brush, I use for line work, when I need a clean, crisp separation between two elements of the painting (e.g., the border between a figure and the background). I find that the pointed brush cannot hold enough paint to make a uniform line. It either runs out of paint, or it gets over-loaded with paint and makes a non-uniform line. But by loading up the Bright brush and then cleaning most of the paint off on the palette, I get much better results. I line the edge of the brush in the direction of the line I’m trying to paint. I use the same technique with the #4 (also #6, #8, and larger) where I have bigger, more open parts of the composition.

# The Art of Others

I plan each month to feature some work of art by another artist, from my own personal collection. This month, we have a marvelous 65cm x 50cm painting by Australian artist Lix North! The title of this painting is *Gilded Cage*.





I came across the work of Lix North in a print magazing called [Beautiful Bizarre](#). The combination of a super-competent realism mixed with fantasy elements was compelling to me. When I saw that this painting was for sale through the [Bienart Gallery](#) in Brunswick (Victoria), Australia, I jumped at the chance to own it!

This is oil on aluminium, with a VERY smooth surface. It is clear what pains the artist took to produce work of this crisp, clean, exciting quality. I love it!

You can follow Lix North on [Instagram](#).

## On the Easel

In each edition of *Hard in the Paint*, there will be an *On the Easel* feature, featuring a painting I'm currently working on. This month, I'll show you a 36" x 48" oil painting, which is the brainchild of a friend, [Maria Lord-Kniveton](#), from my church.



“St. Margaret & the Dragon” – Oil on Canvas by Paul Erlandson – Work in Progress

Many, many pieces of art have been created around the legend of St. Margaret of Antioch. As the legend goes, St. Margaret was punished (for standing up for her Christian faith and defending her own chastity) by her would-be suitor, who fed her to a dragon. St. Margaret escapes the belly of the dragon by forming the sign of the cross. In Maria Lord-Kniveton's conception of this painting, St. Margaret forms the cross from a shepherd's crook (in the legend, St. Margaret was a shepherdess), and an oboe. Why an oboe? Because the painting was intended from the beginning to be a visual accompaniment to an oboe composition by Maria.



Prints in various sizes should be available through my [RedBubble store](#) later this year.

## ◆◆◆ Upcoming Art Shows ◆◆◆

### Shiawassee Arts Center Member Show (May 2 through July 9, 2023)

206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso, MI 48867

### Flint Institute of Arts

1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48603

### Beyond Dreams: Surrealism and Its Manifestations (May 13 through August 20, 2023)

Hodge & Henry Galleries

### The Last Picture Show – Paintings by Rod Penner (June 3 through August 13, 2023)

Dow Gallery