

# CHRIS STEINKEN

832-330-5203 • csteinke@gmail.com

[csteinke.wixsite.com/chris-steinken-fine](http://csteinke.wixsite.com/chris-steinken-fine)

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Creating artwork is a peaceful endeavor where I can explore new ideas and concepts. I'm a painter, mostly working with oils or acrylics on canvas or board. I paint anything that piques my interest, including nature, figures, animals or mechanical objects. The last few years, I've been painting a lot of train-related pieces. Locomotives have been a source of interest since my early childhood. I find myself attracted to subject matter that involves the interaction of nature and man-made objects and how the elements of weather and time can change something. I was inspired by a trip to New Mexico a few years back where I found myself in an abandoned rail yard full of decaying locomotives and train equipment. The notion of decay (or change) has been with me for a while. It's a great metaphor for the human condition. We all experience constant change our entire lives. For one of my first projects in art school, I found my way into an abandoned building on the outskirts of Chicago and photographed all the amazing things that were happening to the building. Warped wooden floors, paint flaking off the walls, thick layers of dust, artifacts left where they'd be set down decades ago—it was all very beautiful to me.

## EXPERIENCE

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### CATALOG/DIGITAL GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Pendleton Woolen Mills — *January 2017 - current*

## EDUCATION

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### Ringling College of Art & Design

Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree (Major in Illustration)

### School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Fine Arts and Photography Programs

## EXHIBITIONS

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- Artifacts Gallery — Cambria, CA
- "Facing Fear" Show at Launch Pad Gallery — Portland, OR (November, 2010)
- "Portland Love" Show at Gallery Homeland — Portland, OR (February, 2011)
- Portland Open Studios (October, 2011)
- Balch Hotel — Dufur, OR (November, 2011 - January, 2012)
- Café Eleven — Portland, OR (January-February, 2012)
- Blackfish Gallery - Fishbowl Window Space / ArtSpace group show — Portland, OR (March, 2012)
- First Unitarian Church Art Sale — Portland, OR (April, 2012)
- "The Way We Go" at Gresham Art Committee — Gresham, OR (April-May, 2012)
- "Annual Juried Show" Gresham Art Committee — Gresham, OR (June-August, 2012)
- "Be Still My Heart" Show at Ristretto Roasters — Portland, OR (July, 2012)
- Portland Open Studios (October, 2012)
- Six Days Art Gallery (co-op member 2013-2014) — Portland, OR
- "New Member Show" at Blackfish Gallery — Portland, OR (October, 2022)
- "Creative Diversity Abides" Newport Visual Arts Center (March-May, 2023)
- "What We Abandon" at Blackfish Gallery (James Hibbard Gallery) — Portland, OR (January 3-27, 2024)
- One River School of Art and Design — Lake Oswego, OR (February-March 2024)