



OUR  
20  
TWENTIETH  
YEAR

## Portrait of the Artist: Paul Goes

Text by Theresa Brown  
Photos by Emma Hildebrandt

*Portrait of the Artist is a series of interviews to introduce members of Hull Artists to the community and offer a glimpse into their creative lives.*

When I arrived early morning on the first day of the July Open Studios at the home studio of watercolorist Paul Goes, I had no idea that a cherished memory of my own was about to connect with the artist's latest inspiration.

Working from a photo recently taken while wandering the garden of French impressionist Claude Monet in the tiny village of Giverny, France, Goes was just putting the first wash of color on paper.



Exactly 35 summers ago, I had strolled those same garden paths lined

with a riot of roses, tamarisk, peonies, dahlias, marigolds, and sunflowers, all sheltered from the summer sun by the arching bows of chestnut trees. Decades apart, Goes and I had each stood under the weeping willows that gently bend over and touch the lily-laden garden pond, famously featured in a series of 48 "landscapes of water" by the aging and nearly blind Monet in the late 1800s.

Having worked professionally as an illustrator and graphic artist, many of Goes' watercolors exhibit a realistic perspective, beautifully detailed landscapes and architectural scenes of local inspiration. But while chatting with Goes, he mentioned that one of his challenges as an artist is to let go of the more controlled and careful side of his artistic brain. He says, "I still look for that ease of not worrying about what I'm painting."

So, upon returning to the studio the next day, I was delighted to see that the new watercolor was finished



and that, in the process, Goes had clearly embraced the free spirit he has been chasing.

Unlike most visitors to Monet's garden, Goes did not focus on the iconic scenes made famous in the impressionist's paintings: closeups of the lilies, the emerald-colored Japanese bridge arching across the pond, or the long rows of poplar trees and seasonally evolving flower beds. Instead, Goes found fresh perspective in a less predictable subject: "deflocked" poppy pods, no longer sporting their attention-getting red/orange blooms.

Their smooth, round heads bearing just the golden crown that once supported papery petals, the poppies stand in staggered rows, like their own miniature tourist group. But their watery green complexion and the deep inky blue that surrounds them pay subtle homage to the palette of the artist who lovingly designed and first painted this oasis just outside of Paris.

Before Goes could even put a signature, a price, or a frame on the painting, I knew this shared remembrance, so perfectly captured in ethereal strokes of water and color, would be coming home with me.

### How did you become an artist?

I always enjoyed drawing and creating images. During my last two years of high school, I started to focus on art as a vocation. Although I now run my own graphic design business, Gostudio, I always thought I would be an illustrator. I had the great fortune in my early career to work with some of the older advertising illustrators who drew the classic cigarette and liquor ads.

### What do you feel makes your work unique and truly our own?

I try to work from photos I have taken in my travels and add mood or impressions that I recall from that time or place.

### What is your first memory of creating art?

Drawing with crayons, lying on the kitchen floor

at my mother's feet as she cooked.

### Do you have a muse or other source of inspiration?

As a student, I was inspired by the work of Sargent and the Wyeths' landscapes. I am now inspired by the beautiful coastal area I call home and hope to capture some of that in my sketches and paintings.

### How do you begin a creative day in your studio or on location?

I try to start with quick sketches of a chosen subject to decide what it is that drew me to it, hoping to draw in the viewer, as well.

### When and where are you the most creative?

That's a tough question for me to answer. As a designer, every day I'm faced with a new design challenge and you never know what you have seen or heard that will inspire a thought that changes your path and the images you create.

### What is the most challenging part about being an artist?

As with any profession, trying to make a living while finding enough pleasure in the task at hand, to allow it to be creatively satisfying and still profitable.

### Why is art important to you and why should it be important to our community?

Art and design is all around us. Whether we know it or not, it can make a huge difference in our physical and emotional outlook. If you have ever heard of the "broken windows theory" (criminological theory), it speaks to the fact that one broken window, if left (unrepaired), will ultimately lead to more neglect and decay of the area. I believe art and beauty can be as strong a subliminally positive influence as the broken windows theory can be a negative influence.

### Where can someone purchase your art and is it difficult to let go of favorite pieces?

My work is currently on display and for sale at the Gallery Nantasket, the Hingham Hammond (real estate) office, as well during the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Open Studio Tours this year at our home studio here in Hull (*studio shared with wife and Hull Artist Donna Goes*). Parting with art that I love, while sometimes difficult, is also rewarded by the knowledge that others will see and hopefully enjoy it as well.

### Andy Warhol said everyone has 15 minutes of fame; has yours happened yet?

I'm not sure that's true, but I think fame is overrated.

Save the date for Hull Artists 20<sup>th</sup>-year gala! Don't miss this exceptional opportunity to experience art on glorious Peddocks Island and discover Hull's hidden gem of artistic talent on Saturday, Oct. 3. Tickets are \$50 per person and available now online at [www.hullartists.com](http://www.hullartists.com). Information also at 781 925-0484.

[Photographer Emma Hildebrandt is the winner of this year's Hull Artists' Dianna Chouinard Memorial Scholarship.] ∞

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