

# Brian McCormick

Artist biography

[Artist's Website](#)



In 2008, Brian McCormick took an early retirement from a career in architecture, working as a Preservation Architect in Madison, Wisconsin, so he could return to making art full-time. One by-product of his architecture career was the restoration of an 1854 stone farmhouse in the rolling hills outside Galena, among a setting of woods, farm fields and prairie, which became the inspiration for many of his paintings.

Architecture is about place making; and, similarly, McCormick's artwork creates a sense of place. The subject of his artwork is "place," or those places, which have a special sensory memory or significance for him. They are often very specific places that he knows, shown during a particular time or season. However, when they can signify some other meaningful place-memory for a viewer, then McCormick feels he has hit the mark.

McCormick strives to connect to viewers through a visual representation of "place" that is at once specific and yet, through each individual viewer's memory, connotes a sense of place that has meaning in their own lives.

While McCormick spent most of his working life as an architect, returning to his first love of painting was not a major reinvention. A basic need to make things has always been his directing force. It could be a building, a set of shelves, a garden, a prairie, a painting, or a woodblock print. Of course, buildings are almost always a collaboration among many people: owners, architects, carpenters, craftspeople, etc. McCormick has learned that his personality is better geared toward solitary pursuits, and he likes to have both the control and the burden of being the sole creator of what he makes. So, artwork has proved to be more fulfilling for him than architecture.

