

The Intrigue of Linden Frederick

Belfast-based Linden Frederick is one of the foremost painters of America's byways, highways, and backyards. He can make the humblest objects or places—propane tanks, beehives, a stretch of Route One, self-storage units, a U-Haul truck, the leftover string of Christmas lights on a run-down home—resonate with mystery. Frederick is a poet of the overlooked, and by focusing his significant prowess as a painter on these everyday subjects, he draws the viewer's attention to their inherent beauty.

The painter also has a passion for dusk—"the hour between dog and wolf," as French poet Jean Follain once described it. His ability to capture the most subtle gradations of twilight using oil paints is remarkable. This is a world that few of us ever really see, distracted as we are by the incessant demands of modern life. It is at once ominous and sublime. It is romantic without being faux-luminist.

Frederick brings focus and drive to everything he does. A semiprofessional bicyclist, he recently pedaled across the country. The trip was physical, to be sure, but it also broadened his vision of the American scene, that sad but beautiful heartland with its signage and railyards.

Back in Maine, Frederick continues to train his eyes on his adopted state. In *Sunset Motel*, 2007, the painted-in-primary-color units that catch the passerby's eye during the day still have a glow about them as evening thickens. One of the cabins has a light on, inviting speculation about what is transpiring



within: Is it a tourist on a Maine coast outing, a one-night stand, a con on the way to Canada? Narratives are attracted to this scene like moths to a flame. As in many Frederick paintings, intrigue and art go hand in hand.



Linden Frederick, *Sunset Motel*, 2007. Oil on canvas, 12 x 12 inches.



Linden Frederick studied at the Ontario College of Art in Toronto, as well as in Florence, Italy. Frederick's subject matter is most often the American landscape, with night and dusk being his dominant theme. He has had one person shows in Santa Fe, New York, and Los Angeles. Find more art by Frederick: Forum Gallery (NY) and lindenfrederick.com