

**Artist Bio**  
**James B. Thompson**

Born in Chicago, Illinois in 1951, James B. Thompson earned his BA degree from Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin in 1973 and his MFA degree from Washington University School of Fine Arts in St. Louis, Missouri in 1977. Though, a Professor of Art and faculty member at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon since 1986, Thompson began his teaching career in 1976 at Washington University School of Fine Arts and has since formally taught Art as a faculty member at AHA-ILACA in London, England, National University of Ireland in Galway, Ireland, Ripon College, OSU-Cascades, University of Alaska, and Tokyo International University America.

A practicing, professional artist since 1973, Thompson has established a formidable nationwide artistic reputation over the past thirty-eight years as one of the most thoughtful and intriguing painters, printmakers and educators from the Pacific Northwest region of the country. Thompson's work has been featured in numerous international and nationally recognized art exhibitions at prominent museums and galleries throughout his career and is included in public and private collections throughout the United States and abroad. A number of public and private entities have commissioned Thompson to create bodies of art works for their respective institutions. Exhibition in both, solo and group shows brought the attention of publishing houses that subsequently reproduced selections of Thompson's art works as book covers published in several editions. Thompson has received numerous awards, honors, fellowships, purchase prizes and grants as an artist and educator.

Thompson's recent body of work was funded by the NEA American Masterpieces / WESTAF Visual Arts Exhibition Touring Grant program in support of the solo tour of his mid-career exhibition, *James B. Thompson: The Vanishing Landscape* to established venues throughout the western states region of the United States through 2011. His current international solo show, *James B. Thompson: The Visual Language of Ancient Scotland* opened at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art in Salem, Oregon US and travelled to The Orkney Museum in Orkney, Scotland UK for exhibition in 2010 before touring to additional venues (courtesy of the Orkney Archaeological Society) in Kirkwall and Harray for exhibition in 2011.

Thompson's forthcoming body of new work, *Linear Metaphysics: Contemporary Mark-Making and Time-Based Art Works* is scheduled to open in 2013 at the Hallie Ford Museum of Art. This is also the site for a planned major retrospective exhibition of Thompson's work also scheduled to open in 2015. An accompanying book on Thompson and his work as an artist and educator has also been proposed for publication in conjunction with this future retrospective exhibition. In the meantime, the film, *James B. Thompson: An Investigation Of Place* has been produced by JSA Storyworks for the Hallie Ford Museum of Art on Thompson and his dual roles as artist and educator that can be viewed online.