

**Mike Hoyt**

Born: August 18, 1944

**Education**

Mike Hoyt earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1966.

**Continuing education**

Hoyt has studied with several notable American impressionists including Kevin MacPherson, Lois Griffel of the Cape Cod School of Art, Peggy Kroll Roberts at the Scotsdale Artist School and Ken Backhaus.

**Teaching**

Mike Hoyt has teaches painting workshops in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee.

**About the Work**

Mike paints on location primarily in the Southeast but also in Maine, the south of France and the American West. His paintings are collected throughout the U.S. and in Europe.

Hoyt refers to himself as a southern impressionist. Like the French Impressionists, Hoyt prefers to paint everyday subjects and capture their luminosity. Simple objects, warmth and color are the essence of Hoyt's work. He says: *'Since almost all of my work is done in plein-air, light, shadow and mood are essential subjects in my paintings.'*

Mike Hoyt's works range from still life and figurative paintings to luminous landscapes that as Hoyt explains, *'portray the temporal effects of light and color, applied in an impressionistic style... in the end, though, I end up in an almost-constant chase for the bold, bright and exciting color. I strive for a certain luminosity in my paintings and so I like to work in the early morning and late in the day when the warmest and most vibrant colors dance through a scene.'*

Hoyt finds beauty in the most mundane of subjects... a few pans on the stove or an old truck in an abandoned barn. Where conventional eyes see the ordinary, Hoyt's ability to portray what can only be described as joyous color shows us the beauty in the ordinary that we might otherwise take for granted.

*'There's something magic about an old barn or a broken-down tractor. Not only do they have interesting forms, these subjects capture our warm, southern sunshine in interesting ways. A collector once told me she liked my work because it "makes me happy". I also had a French nun in Aix approach my easel and comment, "you paint from your heart, don't you".'*

*I have thrived on these two simple remarks. They are why I paint."*