

Bill Russell

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Brief Biography:

Originally from Canada, Bill Russell has built a 40+ year multidisciplinary practice as a painter, illustrator, designer, and writer. A graduate of Parsons School of Design, New York, he served as an Adjunct Professor of Illustration at California College of the Arts and as a staff artist at the San Francisco Chronicle. His residencies include Recology San Francisco, Kala Art Institute, Berkeley, and the Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts, Toronto. Bill has presented solo exhibitions of his paintings at Sofie Contemporary, Calistoga; Stanford Art Spaces, Palo Alto; and Reactor Gallery, Toronto. He publishes new writing about art and visual journalism weekly on his Substack: IllustratedJournalism.com. He lives with his wife in a restored Eichler home in Marin County.

Art Statement:

I am a narrative painter, a Canadian expat living in Marin County. With a successful career as an illustrator, including positions as an Adjunct Professor of Illustration at the California School of the Arts and as a staff artist at the San Francisco Chronicle, I bring a wealth of experience to my work. Drawing inspiration from immersive travel experiences and diligent study, my creative process is rooted in research and engagement with each subject. I explore themes like third-world cultures, global warming, homelessness, wildfire landscapes, and the Anthropocene. My recent work aims to enlighten and educate viewers as I narrate visual stories.

I'm inspired by nature, landscape and the Anthropocene. I want to share my discoveries, through paint, of how the world's environment is being transformed by climate change. I am an experiential traveler. Once I got lost in a slot canyon in Utah. I ended up painting five of these imposing, sandstone formations. On a recent trip to Iceland, I saw how global warming has expedited the creation of icebergs. I witnessed glacier calving firsthand. The experience resulted in a show of large paintings of icebergs.