

M I C H A E L P . B R A N C A

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Michael Branca

Mural Proposal

Mally Waterfront Park, Bowdoinham

April 2025

Statement of Interest and Artistic Project Concept

I am a firm believer in the power of art to transform communities, so I was thrilled to learn about Bowdoinham's decision to invest in its own self-image this way. I have visited the site, and I agree that it is a fantastic mural spot, poised to turn a purely utilitarian structure into a source of civic pride. I'm excited about my vision for this wall, and I hope you will grant me the opportunity to carry it through.

My idea is to tell a story of the food chain at work. A large image of an osprey dominates the scene, taking flight with a freshly caught striped bass in its talons. In the distance, an eagle spots the osprey and is cruising in, intent on stealing its lunch. A low horizon shows Merrymeeting Bay below. An osprey nest on a tall dead tree rises from an island. Other local birds populate the scene.

Concept sketch:



Describe your connection to Bowdoinham or nearby communities.

I have lived in Sagadahoc County for 20 years. As an art instructor at Southern Maine Community College's Brunswick campus and at Merrymeeting Adult Ed, I have a long track record of working with area students. I am acquainted with Merrymeeting Arts Center in Bowdoinham, where my daughter takes pottery classes and where I participated in a recent exhibition at the Art Center's gallery. I am also a board member at Brunswick Public Art, an organization devoted to community betterment through the power of art.

Describe your artistic experience, style, themes, and materials used.

I have been a working artist for thirty years, with countless museum and gallery shows throughout the northeast (see CV). I typically paint in oils, but I branch out into whatever materials will best serve the project at hand.

In my work I employ a broad spectrum of media and subject matter, from large fantastical murals to *en plein air* landscapes to tiny conceptual assemblages. Through these routes I explore feelings of (dis-)connectedness with nature, society and self while attempting to find beauty, joy and humor in unexpected places.

Describe your experience creating a mural on this medium. Please explain what paint you would use and why, and how long the work should last, given your experience.

My intention is to paint this mural using Golden Heavy Body Acrylics, specifically selecting colors for the most durable, long-lasting, non-fading pigments available. The finished mural will subsequently be varnished using Golden's MSA varnish, a highly durable varnish intended for this purpose. The metal panels, properly primed, will be an ideal substrate for this project, infinitely better than painting directly onto the existing cement block. Once sealed, this mural should be expected to last decades.

This document will serve as a resource in making my material selections:

<https://goldenartistcolors.com/resources/painting-exterior-murals>

I have related experience painting acrylic murals for Hannaford Supermarket in Brunswick, and I have completed many large-scale paintings, including "Reach" for SMCC. I have also overseen the painting of several student acrylic murals on the SMCC campus. My experience as a board member at Brunswick Public Art has informed me about the archival concerns of outdoor art, and I intend to tap all of my resources on the board and in the art community, to be sure that this project will have the longest life possible.

You may include your bio, resume, CV, or other relevant documents.

My CV is attached.

Contact Information

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Work Sample 1



Abundance I, Acrylic on panel, 6'9" x 14', Hannaford Supermarket, Brunswick, Maine

Work Sample 2



Abundance II, Acrylic on panel, 4'6" x 7'8", Hannaford Supermarket, Brunswick, Maine

Work Sample 3



Katahdin Altarpiece, Oil and gold leaf on hinged panel, 48” x 72”

Work Sample 4



Picturing the View: Baldface, Oil on canvas, 12" x 34"

Work Sample 5



Reach, Oil on canvas, 71" x 80"