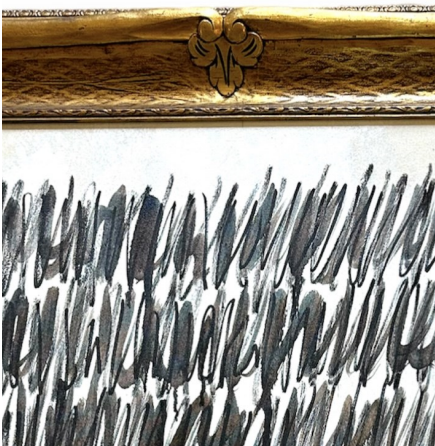




NEW ERA

Recent Paintings by
Michael Kennedy



OPENING EVENT:
September 8, 5-8 pm, 2023

OLD ACADEMY BUILDING
103 West Elm Street, Granville

*Proceeds from the sale of art benefits
The Granville Historical Society.*

My artwork's inspiration is drawn from many experiences and people known to me throughout my life.

I grew up in Granville, OH, where I am a 7th-generation resident of the small village. As a young creative I was fortunate to be surrounded by a talented group of artists who encouraged me to pursue my passion. My grandmother, Mary Sherwood Wright Jones, was particularly inspiring. She was an accomplished children's illustrator for *My Weekly Reader*, and her work served as a constant source of motivation for me. She attended the Art Students League in NYC in 1913, which was a critical moment in the history of American art due to the groundbreaking Armory Show. In addition to my grandmother, I had the opportunity to be exposed to other artists from my community who were pushing boundaries. Among them were Clarence Hudson White, a pioneer in pictorialism photography, as well as talented local female artists Elsie Dorey and Helen Warner. The experiences of my childhood have greatly influenced my current work, particularly in regard to overcoming learning obstacles and carrying on my family's passion for history and tradition. The significance of treasured family objects and places on a personal level is also a major factor in my work. Throughout my academic pursuits, I delved into the realm of fine arts and design while also exploring the fields of decorative arts and architecture in London, England. Since then, my professional endeavors have successfully revolved around product development and marketing within the home décor industry.

My current series of artwork merges two seemingly opposing genres. My appreciation for decorative arts and the importance of objects has led me to develop a fascination for antique frames. Additionally, I am intrigued by the abstract and expressionism that characterized modernism that was introduced to America with the 1913 Armory Show. This particular moment in American art history captivates me as it heralded a new form of painting that challenged realism. My *New Era* collection of paintings is mainly influenced by White's photograph *Drops of Rain*, John Singer Sargent's expressive brushstrokes, the early female American abstract painters, and how I perceived text on paper as a young reader with learning challenges. In my work, I aim to incorporate the idea of hidden messages through the use of layers of abstraction.