

meet the artist

# Neal Gregory



Neal Gregory was born in June 1967 in Royston, a small town in Georgia known as the home of baseball great and Hall of Famer Ty Cobb. Neal excelled at sports at a very young age – particularly as shortstop and the star pinch hitter of his high school baseball team. In an effort to focus on and further his baseball career, Neal first attended the University of South Georgia.

Upon transferring to Georgia Southern one year later, Neal enrolled in a simple figural sketching course in order to fulfill a graduate requirement. His talent became immediately, brilliantly evident, and one of Neal's assignments was awarded a reputable award at a regional art competition. After struggling briefly to choose between his two dreams, Neal elected to pursue his artistic training further at the Art Institute of Atlanta, feeling that his artistic gift was more deeply founded than his physical capability. He graduated from the Art Institute in 1991 with top honors.

Neal has no regrets: "I love the similarities between sports and art. There is a similar energy, a similar, healthy pressure, a similar focus that is required. Especially in my shared studio, where I am surrounded by fellow artists – there is a similar code between us, a similar team spirit where everyone pulls together and really tries to help each other's creative process."

Gregory's paintings explore a variety of themes and subject matter, from athletic scenes to still lifes to landscapes. Always inspired by the virginal countryside of his youth, Gregory positions his easel in a field to capture light playing across a rolling meadow or hill. Gregory also finds creative freedom within the studio itself, where the reality of the artistic process is tangible, ongoing, and intense. "I am your typical artist. I love to paint, capture and create, enjoying the smell of the paint, the canvas and the general sounds of the studio. I enjoy painting images where color composition and mood all gel together to elevate the viewer's awareness."