

## **Artist Bio**

Rob Schouten was born in 1956 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. His early interest in art and drawing led to a four-year study of graphic design at the School for Graphic Arts in Utrecht, from which he graduated in 1977. Schouten moved to the United States in 1979 and began his career as a visual artist in Seattle in 1980.

Rob initially worked in graphite on paper, then became self taught in watercolor, which he pursued for eighteen years. In 1999, he started oil painting, which is his current medium of choice.

Schouten and his wife, poet Victory Lee Schouten, opened the Rob Schouten Gallery at Greenbank Farm in 2008, where they are honored to show the work of about 30 artists, mainly from Whidbey Island, along with Rob's work. Schouten's paintings are also featured in private collections around the world.

## **Artist Statement**

Connection, inspiration and beauty are the three main objectives to which oil painter Rob Schouten aspires. This artist uses his more than 30 years of experience as a painter to present his singular sense of symbolism in the natural world.

"My work is detailed realism with a touch of magic and at times a touch of humor," Schouten said.

"Nature is my deepest source of inspiration, as are quantum physics and the stars of the night sky. Symbolism is the language I use to communicate."

Schouten's paintings reveal an affinity for the sacred nature of existence and create a special experience for the viewer, one which lifts the veil of illusion of ordinary reality and reveals the deeper, spiritual dimensions of life. With his well-honed skills for detail and design, Schouten is able to take the viewer to places imagined as only a magic-realist could. His journey as an artist has been inspired by the work of Escher, Dali, Magritte, and the 19th century Symbolist artists, but even more so by the works of Carl G. Jung, Joseph Campbell and his own studies of numerous Eastern traditions, primarily Buddhism.

"My paintings are carefully crafted to instill a sense of wonder and mystery, and designed to reveal the esthetic beauty and radiance of ordinary things," he said.

### **Website**

To see more of Schouten's work, visit the [Rob Schouten Gallery website](#). Visit the gallery's website for more info at [www.robschoutengallery.com](http://www.robschoutengallery.com).