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ROY PERKINSON

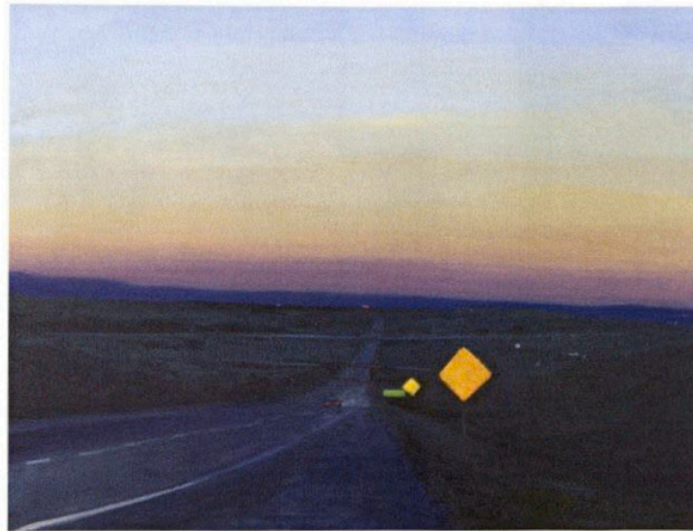
Roy Perkinson's paintings take you places.

They capture familiar surroundings and turn them into warm holidays, the paint detailed and accurate but still wet and with the physicality of the artist's hand very obvious in its creation. A contemplative, beautiful kind of realism — with a touch of Edward Hopper and Richard Diebenkorn — each of Perkinson's scenes captures what he calls "a gift," those moments of heightened awareness when the world seems especially beautiful and you're grateful just to be alive.

Although the scenes themselves aren't always extraordinary, Perkinson uses oil and canvas to make them seem that way, casting a building or a neighborhood as a colorful glowing vista that's meant to be appreciated and savored slowly. Seeing his work all together creates a sense of gratitude, forcing the viewer to realize how much attention our surroundings deserve.

Perkinson's paintings are featured along with works by photographer Greg Heins and painter Andrew Haines, two more Boston artists specializing in making the normal seem beautiful, in "Sight Lines," an exhibition running from March 28-April 21 at Fountain Street Fine Art Gallery in Framingham, Mass.

A lifelong painter whose father was an artist as well, Perkinson has expressed his brand of realism in watercolor, oil and pastel. Having retired after 30 years as the head of paper conservation for the Museum of Fine



Highway at Dusk, 2012, oil on canvas, 36" x 48".

Arts, Boston, he now dedicates all his time to painting, recently working mostly in oil. "Although I'm already looking forward to plunging back into watercolor after my show is on the walls," he said.

He often works on location, finishing each painting within an hour and a half so that the lighting remains as consistent as possible. Sometimes quick sketches or photographs have to be enough to paint from later when time isn't ample. "But I've learned over the years to be wary of photographs as a resource," he cautioned, "the camera never sees the way our eyes do, so I find that careful observation and study of a scene is critically important." Other times he revisits scenes he's painted before and

develops them in different mediums, mining them for new ideas and approaches. A pastel sketch painted in England became a small oil painting that was later reborn as a watercolor. An oil painting completed in a Natick parking lot off Route 9 turned into a series of watercolors several years after it had been painted, serving as a new point of inspiration after emerging from storage.

Perkinson's "Sight Lines" pieces include "Rooftop in Allston," an incredibly detailed charcoal sketch, and "Highway at Dusk," which is now the third version of a subject he has worked on over a number of years. It features a moody twilight sky with a rainbow of pale vibrating colors, the road stretching out into the distance.

"I suppose that I have a special fondness for transitional moments when the sky is changing from day to night," he said, "and that may in part be due to how wonderfully the warm and cool colors one sees at those moments come alive." The landscape meets the horizon halfway across the canvas, and a bright orange traffic sign is the only detractor of natural beauty. Perhaps the best part about the painting is its viewpoint — one taken from the side of the road, pulled over to enjoy the view and happy to let the other cars go racing past.

"Window, Twilight," looks out toward a town as the sun sets, and "Billboard and Building, Study," shows a cropped view of a billboard with the words blurred and made anonymous. "I do prefer to make paintings that give the illusion that the scene is something one might possibly see, if one had been there at the time," Perkinson said, "But this is just an illusion. Part of painting is selecting, selecting and selecting — a kind of rigorous process of editing, recomposing, and editing again so that at the end, if one is lucky, the result is somehow believable."

"Sight Lines: Andrew Haines, Greg Heins & Roy Perkinson" runs from March 28-April 21 at **Fountain Street Fine Art**, 59 Fountain St., Framingham, Mass.

| Lindsey Davis