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## Ray Allen Parker

[www.rayparkerart.com](http://www.rayparkerart.com)

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### Bio

Ray Allen Parker was born in San Diego, California, in 1951. The son of a sailor, he grew up in U.S. Navy towns from California to Florida to Hawaii and Washington before the family finally settled in rural Egypt, Arkansas. He earned a B.A. and an M.A. in English from the University of Arkansas, where he also took his first painting class. Following a three-decade career in retail advertising and communications, Ray finally returned to art and his lifelong interest in portrait and figure painting. Through large-scale works that strive to be both old masterly and contemporary, he explores the complex topography of the human face and figure. Ray lives and works in Fayetteville, AR, with his wife Mary Jean.

### Artist Statement

I believe in heroic paintings -- large-scale works that explore the human figure and the faces of friends, family and fellow artists, who are typically my subjects. I want my larger-than-life paintings to be bold but intimate, naturalistic but expressive, dense but revealing. I try to give life to my subjects, not just depict them, in a convincing, painterly way that simultaneously renders paint both as arresting mark and as flesh. Like the contemporary painters who have most deeply influenced me — Lucian Freud, Jenny Saville, Odd Nerdrum — I want the painting to feel like the person.