



Poet of Light & Prayer

60 inches x 48 inches

Painting

Price available upon request

Ray Allen Parker

Website: rayparkerart.com

Instagram: [@rayaparker](https://www.instagram.com/rayaparker)

Bio

Ray Allen Parker was born in San Diego, CA. The son of a sailor, he grew up in U.S. Navy towns from California to Florida to Hawaii and Washington before his family finally settled in rural Egypt, AR. 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, Ray returned to 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. His work has appeared in the prestigious Delta Exhibition multiple times, winning the Contemporaries Award in 2018. His work has also been selected for the International Biennial Portrait Competition and the Figurativas Exhibition in Barcelona, Spain. In 2020, he was awarded an arts fellowship for painting by the Arkansas Arts Council. Ray lives and works in Fayetteville with his wife Mary Jean.

Artist Statement

I believe in heroic paintings. I create large-scale works that explore the human figure and the complex topography of the face. I want my larger-than-life paintings to be bold but intimate, naturalistic but expressive, dense but revealing. I try to recreate my subjects in a convincing, painterly way that simultaneously renders paint both as arresting mark and as flesh. I want my paintings to be meditations on my subjects and their all-too-human connections with us. With their scrutiny of surface and self, these canvases invite us to draw close to their subjects, closer than we might normally care to be. I intend them to reward our slow looking, so that we, the audience, may regard them in a profoundly fresh way and locate within them something overwhelming and larger than life. Like the painters who have most deeply influenced me — Lucian Freud, Jenny Saville, Odd Nerdrum — I want the painting to feel like the person.